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TRIP to MELASGE;

OR,  
CONCISE INSTRUCTIONS  
TO A  
YOUNG GENTLEMAN  
ENTERING INTO LIFE:  
WITH  
HIS OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
GENIUS, MANNERS, TON, OPINIONS,  
PHILOSOPHY, AND MORALS,  
OF THE  
MELASGEANS.

QUO SEMEL EST IMBUTARE CENS SERVABIT  
ODOREM  
TESTA DIU.

Hor.

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A  
T R I P  
TO  
M E L A S G E.

C H A P. VIII.

**T**HE lectures of the excellent Euphrenes surprisngly opened my conceptions and views. I had experienced the rustic scenes of life, and been tired of their insipidity, and despised the mean baseness there

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redundant. I felt great indignation at the cruel treatment the stranger had received from mankind, and thought the world a savage stage of deception and rapine. But now my humanity was drawn out to feel for man; and I thought myself obliged to please, to serve, advance the happiness of others, and, though abundant petulance, misconceptions, and opposite sentiments, were to be encountered in my intercourse with men, yet steady truth and virtue were to be my constant guides and directors. With this budget of internal provinder, I entered the list of life; and, being well disposed to beneficence, and the more soft sensations of nature, I doubted not  
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in the least to find the generality of mankind equally tender and obliging. I frequented various ranks of society, blended with mankind, and made my observations on the different tempers and dispositions of our country, through which I travelled, with care, before I went abroad; and, in this excursion, observed abundant room for the interposition of civility and rectitude; yet, I ever had an apology at hand, and discovered that my national partiality would never permit me to represent them with that genuineness an historian should ever tenaciously observe. I, therefore, leave them for the entertainment of some less partial, and more cool disposition,

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tion, and solicit the favour of your attention to some observations I made in my voyages to Melasge, an island that was, in my younger days, in the vast Atlantic or Western ocean; but now lost, without the least certain record how, or at what time, it disappeared. Plato speaks of an island, that, in one night, was sunk in those parts: so does Plutarch; from whence I conjecture, that it appears occasionally, as those floating islands, formed by the cohesion of roots and shrubs, in the great lakes in Norway, which, sometimes adhering to the Continent, seem a part of it; at other times being torn from it, by some new  
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revulsion, resume their former insular shape.

When I arrived at Melasge, their most ancient records gave no account of its union with the Continent, nor had any tradition communicated it to them, though they very well knew their island was people by some gentleman, who bathed in the Scamander, some eleven hundred years before the joyful æra of mankind; so that in all probability as they were evidently critical in their intelligence and chronology, their separation from the Continent must have been effected in the early days of Japhat. That it was formerly united to the Continent, some of

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the wisest Melasgeans have proved from principles that merit all the regard due to verity and fact; the time when, is not essential to the argument. But to shew that it was, they, with the utmost precision and ingenuity, shew you, that the rocks on the coast have a similar neatness, are alike craggy, and disposed by nature to form the juncture, as the mortise is by art, to receive the tenon; that the stones are softer there than in the generality of other places, so that a separation was more easily effected, and besides, some cockle shells, and jaw-teeth of animals have been found seventeen or eighteen feet under ground, which, as they were once on the  
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surface, must evidently have been covered by loose earth, and most probably by the earth that was driven on shore when Melasge was separated from the Continent : and what still corroborates these circumstances, and almost demonstrates the justness of the sentiment is, there has sprung from the sea, in a surprising manner, not above two or three hundred miles from the spot, an extensive tract of land, that, mortally speaking, could not have been, had not the bed of the sea been overspread with the earth that sunk at the convulsion of Melasge from the Continent.

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I could collect no farther intelligence of the origin of that extraordinary country, or the happy event which gave it a natural barrier against the intrusion of foreign absurdities, and secured its native innocence and simplicity. The lands of this much-favoured isle were rich, and abounding with all the trees natural to Europe: the pasture was fine, and the fields overspread with waving corn: the air generally salubrious, but sometimes so exceedingly foggy, that the atmosphere, in particular places, seemed to be an impenetrable consistence, and had a surprizing effect on the optics, intellects, and discernment of the inhabitants, and  
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particularly at a small distance from the capital. Those people who were the most obliging creatures in the world, in the city, become the most insolent, blind, impertinent beings imaginable, when immersed in it; they fancy every extraneous object about them diminutive, insignificant, contemptible, and themselves, like Bantom's king, the first in creation's scale; or as the frowning lords of the millions, who inhabit the spacious lawns of the vegetable kingdom, look down on the little slaves of their will, and keep them at awful distance. Various are the opinions of philosophers of this phænomenon: some think the removal from a clear air,  
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to a dense atmosphere may obstruct the passages to the brain; others, that the weight of the external fluid, creating a difficulty of respiration, distorts the frame, and swells the visionary organs to an unnatural convexity, by which means, objects appear to them diminutive. It is not my intention to produce the numerous arguments of that learned body of mankind, in support of the above evidence, lest I should become voluminous, and destroy the little merit a writer can justly pretend to. To beguile the time that is engaged in devoirs to Madam Cloicina, though I am thus tender of my peculiar aims, and the conveniency of others, let it not be imagined that

that the phænomenon is liable to impeachment. A gentleman who came from the interior parts of the island, happening to lodge in the hotel I had been introduced to, confessed to me, he had felt the effects of the air in these particular situations. He enjoyed the rank and importance in his own country, due to men of literature and fortune; but, passing a season at a village distinguished for the beauty of its situation, and venturing out one morning to breathe the sweet refreshing breeze in his night-cap, the air operated so powerfully on his capillary nerves, that, like a sensitive plant, pressed by the finger, he shrunk, became a mere dwarf, and found

found that the reduction of his person was not the most lamentable event that had befallen him: he perceived that the compressure of the finer vessels of the brain, had rendered the transmission of ideas peculiarly singular, representing the most elegant gentlemen, adorned with all the graces of refined education and learning, distinguished by rank and birth, as a body of people whose principle ornaments were insolence and ignorance, and never could be prevailed upon to think his ideas were erroneous, even after he changed the air, and reverted to his pristine magnitude.



## C H A P. IX.

THIS account of the neighbourhood of Sundromon, the capital of Melasge, made me dread the hour of leaving town; but, being assured that a corrupt dialect was too prevalent in the city, I resolved upon an excursion to the country; and, previous to amusement, or any other consideration, determined to apply attentively to gain the language, without which, I could not be acquainted with the genius and man-

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manners of the people—those modes of action, which give foreigners the air of singularity, and stamp their external conduct with the appearance of absurdity. Knowing the natural politeness of the people, I was satisfied my being a stranger would soon gain that attention which one gentleman pays another, however distinguished by country and tongue, and walked out frequently in the morning and evening, when the rays of the sun were withdrawn, refreshing gales waved the yellow fields, animated the panting flocks, and revived the team drooping through heat and fatigue. But finding no company, was informed, it was not the fashion to appear in public at  
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those seasons, people of quality and distinction, airing only at noon. Euphrenes had satisfied me of the necessity of conformity to the disposition of the people whose laws afforded me protection; I therefore walked out at that season, and must own was struck with wonder, seeing the rapid succession of coaches and chariots, phaetons and curricles, buggies and whiskies, horses galloping, men sweating, dust flying, coachmen and footmen, ladies and gentlemen, covered with clouds of dust, panting for air, and choking with the large doses of powder they gorged with respiration. I returned with all convenient expedition, not highly entertained with my sacrifice

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to civility, and the taste of the country; a sacrifice I call it: for (though it may be perfectly agreeable, and well adapted to the constitutions of the Melasgeans, helping their digestion probably, as puddled water aids the digestive faculties of cattle in England) I felt the greatest inconveniency; and, persuaded that a renewal of my attentions, would be attended with absolute suffocation, I determined to give up the ton, be more humble in my propensities, and walk the shady groves with the pigmy herd, enjoy amusements adapted to the coarseness and vulgarity of my nature, listen to the songster's native music, and, with the poet,

See

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See what delights in sylvan scenes appear;  
Descending gods have found Elysium here.  
In woods bright Venus with Adonis stray'd;  
And chaste Diana haunts the forest shade.

Here I found the true delight of  
Nature's charms, arranged in pleas-  
ing views, by the artist's judicious  
hand. Here the luxuriant tree  
spreads its umbrella over the verdant  
carpet, and invited the faunterer  
to enjoy its refreshing shade. There  
retired walks meandered amongst  
the flowering shrubs, and led to the  
sweet resort of thousands of the  
feathered choir, who swelled their  
throats with nature's softest notes.  
Here the gentle gale, passing over  
the winding stream, collected

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cooling fluids ; and, spreading over the grassy plain, filled the lowing herds with joy : the colt frisked beside its dam, and the tender lambkin skipped around within its parent's view, bleated its pleasing sensations, and, in sportive play, snatched the flowing dug. What redundant pleasure did my mind receive from these guileless scenes ! Willing to enjoy them to the full, I sat down in a recess, where the soft zephyrs, that whisper through the branches, brought the sweet produce of the flowering plant to delight the senses. I had not long enjoyed my retirement, when some company, fatigued with walking, took their seats by me ; and a gardener, crossing the  
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the lawn, gave a gentleman an opportunity to remark that the sensations of human nature were often so refined that they could not be expressed without danger to the constitution. He observed, "You will often see the tear of compassion swell in the glistering eye of one at a distressful narration, who would concur in the ruin of numbers. You will often observe a morbid body, decrepid age, and tattered want, draw forth the purse, afford an opportunity to pride to boast its charity, and filch the garb of the queen of virtue. Persons may perform the sacred duties of religion, and conduct themselves agreeable to all its external rules; but should

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they applaud their devotions, speak of the happiness they enjoy in the closet, where is that pure sanctity which stamps it divine? Where is the secret effervescence which rises from the soul to unite alone with God? Where is that piety which excludes the world, and dwells with omnipotence? Does the heart, that resigns itself to Heaven, privately retain a desire to appear good in the sight of men? Would not such a desire argue a want of pure sanctity, and betray the hypocrite? The gardener you have seen pass by, has given the strongest evidence of the force of his sensibility and seriousness. Returning one evening from his labour, he was attacked by ruffians, who

who robbed him, cruelly beat him, wounded him in several places, and left him on the ground weltering in his blood. A person, accidentally passing by, raised him up, and carried him to his house. His illness reduced his family to want and misery : his rankling wounds were nearly mortifying ; when a lady, whose noble soul breathes compassion for her fellow creatures, on the sublimest principles, by chance was informed of the mournful tale, flew to their relief, clothed, fed, nourished the sick man and his starving infants, sent a surgeon to his assistance, and heard from him that the man was perfectly recovered, and his family

restored to its former ease and happiness.

Here was genuine action ; no gloss or subterfuge, no pretence or deception. Another would have expressed his gratitude to his kind preserver ; but he would not intrude upon the goodness of his benefactress, or depreciate its worth by repaying in acknowledgments. The feelings of his heart were too refined to utter his sentiments of the deed. Struggling within and scarcely restrained by the fine ligaments of nature, he dared not to give them leave to exert themselves, lest they should snap his gentle texture and destroy his being : his conduct had

naturally all the acquired delicacy of the French nation, that ingenuity which permits the mind to suppose and conjecture what is most pleasing to itself."

"Indeed (replied a person of the company), there is something exceedingly polite in not giving trouble; vast tenderness in abhorring the idea of conveying pain. Should I know that one person determined to rob another, I think it would be very cruel to give him notice of it, and thereby fill his heart with fear and dread: it may not happen: if it should, how could I help it? I only knew it would be, you know: should be grieved to the heart, and

pity the poor creature most sincerely."

"I beg your pardon (replied a gentleman, whom they called Kustis), with submission to your superior judgment; you should not pity him; to pity is—to pity is—to partake of the trouble. I am an old man; know most of the great personages in Europe; but, with submission, these things are not to be mentioned. If I was given to talk, I could—but you'll pardon me—I well know what is due to the great—but to return. When I was at Paris—no—it was not at Paris—it was at Roan—at Roan—yes, yes, it was at Roan, or Bourdeaux—or somewhere near—

Pray



Pray does either of you gentleman  
—It is excellent—I import my own  
rappee. As I was saying, when I was  
at Marfeilles—I think, I never tasted  
in all my travels such fine cabbages  
—vegetables in France are su-  
preme—excellent—When you cut a  
cabbage you immediately smell the  
soil it grew on. I could tell you  
whether it grew on loam, marl, or  
sand; what plants were near it; if  
there was any vineyard within—  
within an hundred yards of it; but  
now I do not smell as well as I did.—  
Now you must know it is the same  
with the vineyards, as with the cab-  
bages, which occasion the difference  
in the price of wine: some is not  
worth an hundred livres per ton:  
others

others fell for five, nine, twelve hundred : these all partake of the foil ; and, with submission, if you was to pity, as these partake of the foil, you would feel part of the pain.

I am, Sir, upon a scheme of my own invention ; it will be one of (though I speak it) the finest productions, that has ever been made. It is entertaining to see the blood circulate in the tail of a gudgeon—to examine the azure mammilæ of a grampus ; but I love the *utile dulci*—the *utile dulci* is my aim. I care not (though natural history owes to me a great deal) for the electricity of a torpedo, or the *utrum*—genus of a snail. I like to cultivate what  
will

will serve the community, enlarge the revenue, and comfort the heart. I have you must know, at the back of my house, a kitchen—garden—and in that garden, when we have a warm summer, some of the best peaches and nectarines in the world; which I have found by experience—and experience is the thing, to be best,—when they have been eaten by earwigs, an animal that sucks out that fragrant richness, which is so grateful to the olfactory powers—on this I build my hypothesis—and have set up—you will be surprized at the invention—an earwigger: have already divided them into classes, and permit them to come abroad in succession, by  
which

which means they are equally fed. My fruits luxuriantly ripened and and my scheme brought to perfection; for as soon as the fruit is perfectly ripe, I will collect the earwigger—now impregnated with the rich flavour of the fruit, the kernels, and rinds,—and, pounding them in a mortar of peculiar structure, shall procure a quantity of the most delicious liquor in the world—Montiphiasco—la parfait amour—Eau de coin, &c. &c. &c. can be nothing to it. Besides, the advantages of this invention are abundant. These insects becoming, like sheep and oxen, private property, will be kept within bounds; hindred from general plunder; destroy the vulgar use

use of gin (for surely none will drink gin when they can buy equally as cheap this liquor), reduce the price of wheat, fill the poor with bread, our navy and army with health, and irresistible vigor. And farther, after this most excellent liquor is drawn off, there will remain in the vessel a kind of oleaginous substance; not greasy, but waxy; pellucid and fragrant; of this I propose to make candles that, in the candlestick, will look like a tube of chrystal, tipped with a lambent flame of gold, and diffuse, through all the apartment, a perfume infinitely superior to that which is burnt in oriental censers, or produced by otto of roses. Here then we shall have  
a piece

a piece of elegance superior to all our neighbours. I could have sent it abroad, but I have a tendre for this poor country; it is a pity there should not be one thing in it to do it honour."

The former person replied, "It is very good of you to consider us in so favourable a light. None but noble minds can be truly generous."

Kustis rejoined, "There certainly is a congruity in nature: a congruity I may well say; a certain concatenation that pervades all things. I am noble, or undoubtedly could not think nobly: my ancestors were ennobled in the days of Venterblast,  
a prince



a prince who reigned here with great honour. Nobility is not on the footing here it is in other countries. There they are not properly distinguished. Every rich fellow sets up for a gentleman, forces himself into the noblesse; but here nobility is here—dit—ary: it does not depend upon wealth; but family, and their rank; not upon titles, but antiquity. There is something in family descent, that probably is not explicable; but so it is very singular and extraordinary. I conceive a certain congruity under correction, in the material organs, or a certain refinement in the animal disposition, that, having a fecundity of igniferous sublimity, that, volatilizing the  
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perceptive faculties, raises the genius to a sublime, keen, noble power of discernment, and diffuses such portion of wisdom to every degree of relationship (as what is inherent in the principle, must be communicated to the produce), as amaze and strike with wonder; as have the geniuses of my dear relations, Montesquieu, Rohault, Voltaire, and Rousseau—our family is not far short of *entre nous*.”

C H A P. X.

**I**Llistened hitherto with no less attention than surprize; but, now dreading lest Kustis should stride over his entre nous, and expatiate upon his secret, I took my leave as hastily as the miller (dreading the effect of another glass) moved the wine from the Sultan. The story runs thus: “ A Sultan, in hunting, was accidentally separated from his company; and, being embarrassed in woods, and unfrequented tracts, was incapable

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of

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of finding the way to his palace. Night approached ; and, fortunately, the twinkling light of a lamp pointed the way to a miller's habitation : there the Sultan came, and was received with the utmost cordiality. The miller placed before him the humble fare of his cottage, and regaled him with a cup of wine. This hospitality pleased the Sultan : he told the miller he was a Lord of the Sultan's court, and would reward his kindness. The cup was replenished, and the Sultan assured him he was the Grand Vizier, and would not fail to promote him. These assurances did not restrain the miller's generosity ; the cup again was crowned ; and, the Sultan's heart

expanding, he threw off all disguise and declared himself the Sultan. The miller sprung from his seat, seized the cups, and cleared the table in an instant. The Sultan, surprized at his conduct, asked the reason of it; the miller replied, 'When you first came here, you was a Lord, a draught of wine created you Vizier, and another Sultan; if I permit you to drink any more, you may insist upon it that you are the prophet himself.'

The miller wisely observed, that the particles of wine had the same effect upon the natural barometer, as the rays of the sun have on the artificial, gradually mounting until

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they had impregnated the cerebellum, and bewildered the imagination; or, as the *tinctura universalis*, which strengthens by use, realizes dreams, and so firmly establishes opinions, that, should you intimate a distrust, or want of credence, they will curse you as heartily as Emperor Peter did his brethren; and, is it to be wondered at, when, in so doing, you sap the foundation of their greatness, worth, and importance, unhinge their happiness, and leave a mere vacuum behind?

Here, probably, some who are burdened with that foible so long exploded in a neighbouring kingdom—bashfulness, will hold those in

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contempt and ridicule who vainly talk of themselves, boast of their own ingenuity, rank or merit: however, such modest personages will pardon my dissenting from them in opinion; for I shall scarcely be persuaded that any one knows another better than he knows himself, can trace the workings of his genius, the force of his imagination, and solidity of his understanding, with half the accuracy that he does who feels the motion, discerns the operation, and produces the effect. If, therefore, the dulness of mankind disables them to discern the various beauties and excellencies that his genius may be cloathed with, it certainly is very obliging, and condescending in the

possessor to point them out, that they may not be lost to society; nor could he, properly speaking, be esteemed a good citizen, or a good man, without conducting himself in that manner; so that he is really under a moral obligation and necessity of publishing his own merits, as the wisest men in all ages have done. How would that immense treasure of renown, which Greece and Rome accumulated, have been amassed, had not the great told their own story, and had not a parcel of poor wretches called poets and historians, urged merely by gratitude and admiration, celebrated *their* fame, who were too modest to speak for themselves? and, in these modern days, what a wretched

wretched cloud of ignorance would overspread us, did not every man, his friend, and his friend's friend, celebrate his works, and point out those well-turned periods, those fine sentiments, that Attic salt, that elegance, grandeur, grace, riches, &c. &c. &c. which every line produces, and swells beneath each stroke of the brush? In truth, the deeper we examine the propriety of a man's celebrating his own fame, the more we must be satisfied of the necessity of it.

Some have alledged that this self-satisfied disposition is exceedingly beneficial to health, conducive to a free circulation of the juices and

animal spirits; and, indeed, nothing is more certain than that people of that amiable temper, are generally fat, fair, and florid, perfectly at ease, and the most smiling happy creatures in the world, frolicsome, frisky, lively, gay, in town or country, court or cot. I had formerly a ridiculous notion that floridity was confined principally to the rural scenes of life, the seat of ease and retirement; but am now perfectly undeceived, and satisfied nature is not thus partial; if there is any discoverable partiality in her works, it is certainly within the capital and its environs; for there floridity extends beyond the period; we find it flag in the country, though  
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they have the same natural requisites, qualities and propensities; and I have not seldom wondered what means are used to support nature in a more elegant state here than amongst the homely villagers; the only probable reason to be assigned, is, the mode of living, which, being exceedingly dissimilar, must have different effects upon the constitution. Here they never suffer the morning dew to check that fine perspiration which unloads the pores of morbid matter, and gives the skin a beautiful fairness; or venture into the noon day's sun, that throws the blood into a fermentation, produces fevers, debility and languor. There, on the contrary, they suck in the morning

ing vapours, wet their feet in dew, get colds which corrupt the blood, and give a yellowness to the skin, range the fields amidst the warmer rays, and recline beneath the friendly branches of a spreading tree. Besides, in the country, they eat beef, mutton, and brown bread, drink ale or small beer, food in itself so coarse and heavy, that many fall asleep immediately after eating; and others are so stupid, that it is very evident the digestive faculties are impeded and obstructed, from whence Nature suffers, and a thousands humours are produced to injure health, and waste the constitution: whilst the most judicious, in the brilliant scenes of life, use the  
 most



most delicate viands that form a pure chyle, such as salmon à la braise, ragôuts, pig au pere douillet, fricasey mushrooms, chardoons à la framage, and a thousand other soft and gentle things that nourish, but do not load the stomach; these admit of no morbid matter, warm the genius, aid circulation, and, immixing no grossness with the limpid stream, it fills the small vessels in the cheeks with natural bloom, and gives an elasticity to the whole constitution.

This luxuriance of juvenile complexion, is not the only happy consequence of a pure and lymphatic state of blood. In vulgar constitutions there

there are so many obstructions, corporeal and mental, that a long series of years, employed in the exercise of education, can scarcely remove; but in these refined habits, the capillaries and nervous system, being filled with a pure fluid easily impelled by sound or intuition, convey an assemblage of materials to the soul, and incite ideas with consummate facility, without the process of education to instill, direct, and inform, and at once implant in the mind as much science and intelligence as the most accomplished scholar is possessed of, particularly in that beautifying rhetorical figure Hyperbole, which Aristotle remarks, is admirably adapted to the genius of young

young men of quality. This improvement of ability is certainly a refinement that the world, in general, is entirely ignorant of. The first geniuses in antiquity, thought indeed that mental as well as corporeal properties, were transfusible to others, as do modern Indians; but it does not appear that either of them ever fully effected their conjectures, though frequently attempted; so that the Melasgeans have a just claim to originality in this accomplishment, and boast, without a competitor, a regular affinity between genius, person, and endowments, founded on the same excellence, and rational consistency.

## C H A P. XI.

THE Melasgeans think an implicit obedience to what they are told of the ancients, in matters of wisdom, essentially necessary to indicate the scholar, and admire, even to adoration, the facility of acquiring science; yet, in other matters of moment, and serious importance, the dress of the person they think for themselves, and indeed, with great propriety; for the habit that is suited to Ionia, would by no means be

be agreeable in the Western Islands; the sandal laced with an hard thong, must yield to the beauty and conveniency of the black sattin shoe, with white heels; nor would the ladies, whose chaste ideas compel them to conceal their feet, dispense with such an infringement on modesty as the Scio ladies seem inconscious of, who, with all imaginable naïvetè, dance and sing, laugh and smile, with their petticoat reaching almost to the knee, displaying the simple neatness of a white silk stocking; but this innocence would, in Melasge, be indecent, a deviation from that modesty they were never known to infringe, and therefore they take every opportunity of shewing

shewing their disapprobation of it ; and you may, in a great degree, judge of the coldness of a lady's constitution and modesty, by the length of her habit, height of her head-dress, and demureness of her aspect, without feeling her pulse, or consulting the barometer.

This mode of conducting externals, is admirably advantageous and useful to society, to beauty and virtue : it leaves the men not one moment in doubt of the internal graces of the mind, the solidity of understanding, and all those pretinences which men of speculative tempers are capricious enough to admire : it draws beauty, as it were,

to



to a focus; and, is so peculiarly adjusted, that not a charm gains the superiority, but every line concentrates there, and all the objects of vision, however diffuse, converge to that point, whether it be a fine complexion, ivory teeth, ruby lips, a well-turned arm, white hand, long fingers, or swelling bosom, or &c. &c. and so effectually secures virtue from the least intrusion on her sacred rights, that, was it not to extend the domain, conjoin the spacious lands that nod with the yellow harvest, even beauty would not incite a desire to turn the fallow glebe.

These various manners, and excellent endowments, are not pre-  
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fumed to be the offspring of their own natural genius : they are culled as choicest flowers from the best cultivated gardens, in the politer and most accomplished countries. Many leave their natale solum, covered with rust and ignorance, to seek refinement in foreign lands, and, when there, ride through different states, as if impetuous anxiety hurried them from the hand of justice, and then return to display (as those beauties in an hair dresser's windows do), the ton of dressing the hair.

Here, young men, by an order of government, are never permitted to go abroad until their understanding is ripened and cultivated by classic

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learn-

learning, a general acquaintance with their own government, laws and institution, ancient and modern history, the connection and interest of states, particularly those they intend to visit, until they have travelled through their own country, and made themselves perfectly acquainted with whatever is curious and valuable in nature or art. Then their intercourse with foreign nations will build on their acquisitions, expand the mind, and give it a turn of liberality, affording them an opportunity of seeing the different forms of government, and their effects on religion, morality, virtue, manners, &c. &c. &c. They are enabled to discern the rocks on which others

have split, the obstructions that impede the cultivation of whatever is amiable and of public utility, to select such plans and productions as have proved beneficial, and, by this means, become useful to the state, amiable in themselves, and objects of imitation to those who are not capacitated to enjoy similar advantages.

## C H A P. XII.

AFTER exhausting the treasures of classic ground, and leaving nothing behind but dirty inns, wretched horses, and miserable people. The Melasgeans have, of late years, addressed themselves principally to architecture, and gardening, and display in them a striking force of genius. It is not unusual, in other countries, for a gentleman to erect his country seat beside some rising ground, fronting the south or south-

east; but they, sensible of the absurdity, with a degree of wisdom, discernable in all their actions, reverse the front, and think it the height of folly to expose their summer retirements to the full force of the meridian sun, the Eastern blasts, so pernicious to the constitution, and those early streams of light, which, breaking forth from the chambers of the East, render it impossible to sleep, enjoy that soft repose so necessary to existence. Their rural mansions, generally, have no interruption to their view, until the far-distant hills clasp the horizon, whilst lofty mountains to the east and west, dressed in verdant fern, stilling subterraneous rivulets into a stag-



stagnant pond bound the sight, and feed a spacious fen bordered with aspiring rocks, that seem to defy the savage hand of time, hanging like ruins, from whose cliffs the bramble, and creeping ivy spring; this draws near the lovely spot intersected only by the public road, where rolling eddies speak the busy world, and enliven the placid seat of health and beauty; where the rising sun, smiling on the soft atmosphere, exhaled from the fen and pond, awakes their numerous inhabitants to salute it with songs of joy and gratitude. Within the charming villa, reigns the same consummate taste; splendor conspires to enrich the grand saloon, rich crimson furniture coolly insinu-

ates the pleasure of refreshing gales, and yellow carpets contrast the softest bed of Nature. The lady's dressing-room, hung with rosy damask, decked with oriental productions, mandarines and monkies, lamas and pagodas, serpents, lizards and crocodiles, toads, frogs and satyrs, in decent arrangement unfold the native genius as fully as what is beneath the toilet, does its destined use. The other apartments have a snuggity in them that effectually excludes the entrance of an influenza, all external air, and leaves the sweet perfume, which flows from the lips, to be breathed, and rebreathed again : this is one of the secret causes which contribute to the prevailing run of beauty ;

beauty; for it has been found, by experience, that, nothing is so apt to establish cutical complaints, as a sudden checking of perspiration, which, stopping the pores, confines that matter in the skin which Nature would have thrown off; and makes it necessary to use cool creams, almond washes, hogs-lard, bears-fat, those nice and delicate unguents, that have a loosening and suppling quality, to open the pores and give Nature an opportunity of discharging her fluids. Notwithstanding these refinements are universally prevalent in Melasge, they are but of novel introduction: their strides to elegance are amazing; for in my first voyage, they just became in vogue, amongst

amongst the most eminent and sensible; but now the ladies and gentlemen find them as necessary to the complexion as the collar, back-board and braces are to the formation of an elegant figure.

Is it not matter of wonder, (as it is evident that intelligence is progressive, and every age exceeds the former in wisdom) that old mansions, crowded with helmets, spears, and shields, trophies of ancestral glory, should remain so long as they have? especially when we consider that they were surrounded with meadows, and ploughed lands, perpetually subject to the lowing of herds,

herds, the bleating of sheep, the rustic notes of the milk-maid stroking the flowing dug, the husbandman holding his plough, and encouraging his team to labour, whilst the boy affrights the plundering crow from the new-sown corn, and makes the vallies re-eccho his shrill toned voice ? Fortunately for the fine feelings of gentlemen of the present age, this rusticity is superseded, meadows full of oxen, ploughed lands, cottages of dirty rustics ; what horrid rudeness of unpolished nature ! Now you see their villas surrounded with parterres interspersed with gravel walks ; the grounds laid out in beautiful variety, present each succeeding

ceeding step some novel scene: you enter a grove planted with geometrical exactness, the angles leaving sufficient room on either side to spread the branching shade on the mossy bed below; and, passing on by a small meandering path, are arrested by lofty-clustered firs, brought from America's boundless forests, interspread with roses and jessamine, daughters of a southern soil. Scarcely have you admired the judicious class before your eye is called to view the varied beauty of a temple, in the centre of the fine canal, fed by a venerable pump whose waters, of verdant hue, regale the nostrils with their odour, whilst the dragons, brandishing their forked tongues



tongues from the temple's roof, seem to threaten the graces, arranged about an Adam's needle, garnished beneath with candid tuft, and Venus's looking-glass. Emerging from this fragrant spot, such is the charming variety, you are at a loss how to guide your steps ! Here the sportive mazes of pines and firs, there the arbutus, Canary hypericum, agnus cæstus, phlomis, oleaster, shrub cinquefoil, althæa frutex, tulip trees, mellon trees, lucca brooms, saffrafas, ceanthus, dahoon holy, cedar, &c. &c. &c. spread their delightful branches, and invite attention ! Here lawns and ruins ; there groves, canals, fames, temples, hills, grottoes, display their excel-

excellence in such quick succession  
that genius finds itself unable to  
dispose of the palm to either.

## CHAP.

C H A P XIII.

OTHERS rejecting the aids which architects or statuaries give, follow the simple dress of Nature; the simplicity of her choicest dress. Not a rock or stone is seen; not a plant or shrub does wildly sprout and indicate spontaneous growth; the spacious tract of alternate ascent and vale, is decked with ever-greens; bushes immixed with flowery shrubs; honey suckles entwining the stately tree, form this simple garb of  
of

of Nature, as Quakers, despising the ornaments of vanity, humbly submit to dress in all the simple neatness that the richest silks and finest linen can supply.

Turn your eye and see, how uniform Nature pervades the species : here she appears in a polished dress, there in rustic barbarism ; one illustrates the other, yet the kernel boasts the same internal properties ; erudition and social intercourse in several degrees stud with gems, gold, silver, iron, lead, clay : should we not then admire it equally in every degree, as all its externals are produced from the materials it rests upon, or is connected with ? This variety

variety is highly admirable, and  
beauteous in the scale of things.  
How are we struck with the strength  
and majestic dignity of an elephant  
or ostrich! How are we pleased  
with the vivacity and ingenuity of  
the squirrel or wren, and all those  
numerous societies that dwell be-  
neath the virent leaf, dressed in the  
richest robes of colours infinitely  
more beautiful than the Eastern  
world ever saw? Shall we then con-  
fine our eye to the larger scale; and,  
whilst we follow the elegant B——e  
over the rich carpeting of lawns  
and fields, and feast our eyes with  
his elysian views, forget the minutiae  
of genius and nature, and not ad-  
mire the neat, airy retreats by the

public roads, where we see taste, prudence and precaution, natural and acquired virtues concentrated? The fame winged, and on the toe to fly abroad and speak its master's virtues, his noble line of ancestry, as soon as he has received the vouchers and genealogy, whilst the painted pipe-staves guard the base, protect the snow-drops from fell Grimalkin's claws, and winds the snail-creep walk, towards the half-glazed door. If B——e enriches his spot with fine terminations, striking objects and the moving scenes that glide upon the silver stream, how far greater is the variety here? Waggons, coaches and wheelbarrows, whiskies, chaises,



and phaetons, besides thousands of herds and flocks, more than fed on the Beotian plains, every instant delight the eye, crown the head with dusty wreaths, those charming eddies which filled the charioteers at the olympic games with boundless joy and pleasure.

Nature would, indeed, have discovered a very unkind partiality, had she confined her best powers to a peculiar class of mankind; but people, whom nobody knows, have the animating opinion that it is not so, and are confident that men of renown, who have subverted empires, explored new worlds, and introduced an unknown race of mortals to an

intercourse with the western world, can only boast their having the lead on these occasions. Is there a soldier who does not discover defects in his general's conduct, and despise his unskilfulness? Is there a sailor who does not think he could discover new worlds, were any still unknown, as well as Columbus or By—n, greatly as they adore him? It is one of the greatest blessings in life that mankind are so intrinsically ingenious, so perfectly satisfied with themselves. It is from self we receive satisfaction: it is from self we enjoy whatever pleases or gives delight; and it is from self that these eminent flights of genius and ability, taste and distinction, perpetually flow:

flow: external aids may give the portrait varnish; but nature alone spontaneous lustre, beauty and elegance.

This noble truth was never more fully verified than the other morning; when, stepping into a snuff-shop, to replenish my box, I was addressed in a singular strain of politeness, seated on a stool with peculiar civility; accomplishments I had not the least expectation of finding where education had not intervened, nor any of those opportunities could be supposed to have occurred, which, in the gay circle, without any essential quality, implant the ton air; for though Nature may be kind, yet

she is so sluggish in herself, that, unless she has a contingent stimulation, her kindness may lie dormant to eternity. "I think, Sir (says the gentleman, gently tapping the paper in which he was folding my snuff), I had the honour of sitting near you in the boxes at the opera last night? Pray, how do you like the fair Seraphini? Has she not amazing powers? The coldness of the weather rather checked her voice; but, when she is used to our climate, I dare say she will surprize the world! Sontini has a sweet pipe, a most enchanting manner, and (was not Seraphini present) would be listened to with admiration; but oh Seraphini! Seraphini! the divine  
Sera-

Seraphini ! I die with rapture ! Sir,  
 I hope the snuff will please you : it  
 is excellent : good morning : you  
 are welcome."

I did not immediately recollect  
 this gentleman's features ; but, on  
 consideration, remembered he sat by  
 me, dressed in a suit of light blue  
 velvet, and seemed distressed with  
 ecstasy, melted by the finger's soft  
 tones. Here was no art, no affectation ;  
 pure Nature dressed him in nice sen-  
 sation, and Observation drew forth  
 his feelings in harmony and taste ; a  
 degree of accomplishment, however  
 disregarded by the mathematical  
 world, is not to be acquired, as I

have intimated, without genius and application.

The first stirring of Nature has as disagreeable an effect upon the optic nerves as the stirring of a reservoir has upon the smelling faculties; but, when she has thrown off those unseemly particles that offend the eye, it becomes perfectly simple, and admits such external impressions as the judicious instructor lays upon it. Mr. Smallgrain (if I rightly interpret the Melasgean appellation) a young gentleman of excellent natural endowments, particular sensibility and modesty, near seven feet high, and proportionably bulky, who led the gay circle at Salton-



Salton-hall, was infinitely distressed when he made his first appearance, dressed in a suit of pink satin, trimmed with blond lace, bag-wig, sword, &c. Not having practised company, he was as much at a loss to conduct himself, as a person would be to investigate equity, without understanding the forms of court. The dignity of his figure was disgraced by his consciousness: the company oppressed him: he drooped his head, conjoined his knees and toes, and sunk as deep in reflection as — who worked a fluxion by memory to amuse himself in a tempest at sea. However amiable these virtues may be in themselves, you never find them

them in the best-bred company : they are easy and degagée, lively and animated, an ability infinitely amiable and to be wished for, of as inestimable a value as (Plato somewhere dreams) the passion of love is, of all dispositions the most desirable, as it leaves the mind and body in full vigour and activity, never brings on that lassitude and weariness, thoughtfulness and early old age which philosophers, divines, mathematicians, and all men of active genius, and laborious employs, are liable to ; but, leaving the mind and body in an uniform placidity, never stretch those fine fibres which, by too much friction, are often destroyed, and the bodily as well as mental system

system debilitated, the fatal effect of good old Cato's thoughtfulness and reflections, who found himself often under the necessity of calling in secondary aids to strengthen his animal spirits to warm and enliven his virtues.

Narratur ut prisce Catonis  
Sæpe mero incaluisse virtus ;

a means that men of extraordinary endowments in modern days, owe many of their best productions to.

## C H A P. XIV.

AH! my sagacious friend! I perceive thou hast already contracted the orbit of thine eye into the smallest focus to ken with prying curiosity, at the particular tendency of my narration; but you will pardon me if, urged by a just tribute to decorum, like Homer's wandering muse, I take my leave of this delicate branch of my subject, lest I should be kicked out of reading, as Momus was out of Heaven, for  
faucily

haucily laughing at the baseness and absurdities of his betters ; a faculty, however happily capable of discovering a good set of teeth, and exposing the petty machinery that sets the puppets of this globe in motion, is not always incited by pleasing, absurd, or ridiculous sensations, of which I was particularly convinced in one of my evening walks, whilst I resided in Melasge : I saw, at a distance, a rustic beating a boy, as if he had been an heretic, attending the liquefaction of \* St. Januarius's blood. Enquiring, why the

\* The ceremony of liquifying St. Januarius's blood, is annually performed at Naples. When the blood does not liquify readily, they

the poor wretch was beaten so unmercifully, I found he could not be prevailed upon to eat his own mutton and potatoes : that there was a necessity

they attribute it to the presence of heretics, and with blows drive away every one they find in the church ; this Saint is distinguished for his virtues, and particular attachment to his nose. When the Saracens made an incursion into the kingdom of Naples, they went to Pozzoli to fetch St. Januarius's nose, one pulled it, another struck it ; all this the Saint bore without the least degree of complaint, at length one knocked it off, put it into his pocket and ran away, still the Saint retained his patience and discovered no resentment ; but finding they were determined to carry off his nose, he stirred up a most violent storm, which hindered them from going to sea, until, providentially, some of them thought it was owing to the resentment of the image, who would not be appeased as long



necessity for cudgeling him, as they do St. Antony, or the Medecin malgré lui, into a due exertion of his powers. This, properly conducted, might have been serviceable to him ;

long as his nose was in their possession, upon which they threw it into the sea, and, fine weather immediately succeeding, they set sail. The artists endeavoured to repair the image with a new nose, but no art or force could fasten one on. At length some fishermen took up the original nose in their nets ; but, disregarding it, because they did not know what it was, threw it again into the sea ; nevertheless, the nose, continuing to offer itself to their nets, in whatever place they fished, they began to conceive it must be something supernatural, and one more cunning than the others, suggested it must be the Saint's nose, upon which they applied it to the statue to try whether it fitted, and, immediately without any cement, it united so exactly, as to leave no appearance of a scar.

but

but I could not comprehend how the discipline of the crab-stick could draw out such perpetual peals of laughter, as the boy uttered at every blow. I expressed my surprize, just as the philosopher Kustis, I had before the pleasure of listening to, came up, pausing with profound gravity ; and, suddenly reverting as it were from the retired caverns of reflection, he glanced his eye upon the horizon, (to view, I suppose, the height of the sun, which has evidently as much effect upon some bodies as the moon has upon others), and said, “ Sir, laughing, I humbly conceive, with submission to your superior judgment, is a violent agitation of the muscular system, occasioned

caſioned by ſome external or internal impulſe. You have, doubtleſs, obſerved a guſt of wind move a caſk with liquor in it: why then, Sir, that impulſe acts upon the internal ſystem juſt as the wind upon the caſk, impelling the external lignum commotes; the internal fluids ſhaking the general concatenation of nerves, it vibrates in riſibility as the fluid does in waves, and the laughing will be louder or ſofter, according as the impulſe is more or leſs violent." By this time a mob was aſſembled, and ſeized the fellow, ſuppoſing the diſcipline would be fatal; which interrupted any farther philoſophical diſquiſition.

I did not immediately enter into the phenomenon of the boy's laughter, though so clearly shewn and exemplified, nor conceive the chain of argument, and therefore determined to follow the philosopher, to gain some farther illustration of the subject; but hesitated for a moment, lest it should be thought unpolite to intrude upon the gentleman, as he may not feel himself philosophically inclined, or may be squaring the circle, or revolving the phenomena of the celestial system. People may voluntarily instruct, but to be asked may be thought intrusion. Awed by this consideration, I almost determined to content myself with my ignorance, lest my curiosity should

should have a perquisite of altercation, as the envoys to Ratisbon, who generally receive half a dozen quarrels, as perquisites of their employment: however, I determined to throw myself in his way, and if he condescended to recollect me, the subject may be introduced without offence. I overtook him, walked by his side some minutes in profound silence: he was sunk into deep reflection, and seemed, by the sound I heard rumbling within his breast, to be driving hard in the celestial car, and not considering that, though his head rolled amongst the higher orbs, his feet were on the earth, he walked on the brink of the river, and another step would have tumbled

him into the stream. I stopped him—the interruption expelled his reverie, as the chesnut does its wind, on the burning coals, and gave me an opportunity of assuring him I should not have intruded upon his reflections if the danger he was in had not made it absolutely necessary. “You are kind, Sir; but I was in no danger : \* I swim the best of any man in the empire.”

“ I doubt not your skill, Sir; but you might have caught cold; an accident that would have given infinite concern to the world.”

\* Ἀσχος βάρησεν, δυναι δὲ τοι οὐ θείμης ἔστι.  
The bladder may be wet, but not drowned.

“ Sir,



“ Sir, you are very obliging. Give me leave, Sir, to solicit the honour of your acquaintance.”

“ You do me a great favour, Sir. I heard you just now with peculiar pleasure; but not possessing so clear a conception as many have, would think myself greatly obliged if you would again explain to me the phenomenon of the boy’s laughing so heartily under the cudgeling.”

“ Sir, it is not usual with me to enter into philosophical disquisitions, to speak speculatively, or pretend to scientific knowledge. The sciences are obtruse; philosophy has a profundity that few minds can at all enter into, few conceive, fewer un-

derstand, and none can listen to without (you'l pardon me Sir) envy and spleen."

"Sir, I have done: it was not my intention to be impertinent: I wish you a good evening."

Taking my leave had an effect on the gentleman's good temper. I could not flatter myself with the expectation of: he replied, "We are walking one way: if not disagreeable, I should be happy in the honour of attending you. You must know, for I have considered the doctrine of ideas more than any man in Europe, which between ourselves (I would not have it go farther) has been hitherto slovenly handled, in-

nate ideas, simple ideas, complex ideas, a pack of jargon : with respect to the former, there never were, and never will be any ; the second cannot be of themselves, because they cannot exist without a medium ; the third are merely adjuncts to their relatives ; the whole doctrine is reducible to mere tones, conveyed by the susceptibility of the nervous fabric ; the moment the eye sees an object, the optic nerves are impressed, and ideas spring from the concussion as sparks from embers, when they are stirred ; and whereas every object is received by the senses, and, coming through the same medium, must have the same effect on the nerves, it is obliged

to wait some indivisible point of time before the mind, the brain, the imagination, or whatever you please to call it, can determine whether it shall be pleasing, or displeasing, that is, whether it shall give pleasure, or pain. Now with submission, I think that the rustic laid on the cudgel so rapidly upon the boy, and the senses were so busy in transmitting external impressions, and the mind, brain, or imagination, was so violently obtruded on, that the indivisible punctum temporis being lost in the rapidity of the transmissions, it could not consider the class they were to be arranged under, and so mistook laughter for crying."

CHAP.

CHAPTER. XV.

THE accuracy of this philosopher's reasoning, the justness of his sentiments, and the depth of his penetration, filled me with surprize, and left me no room to doubt but he filled some place of eminence and distinction, where his parts shine in their full lustre.; for the situation and point of view is the essence of merit, virtue, ability and genius: they are in themselves of little importance: it is the light they stand in.

in, which draws out the tints, and unfolds their worth. What beauty is discernable in the works of Raphael, Angelo, Carracio, Titian, or Paolo Veronese, when placed in the dark? Has not Horace assured us that, in his days,

Paulum sepultæ distat inertiae  
Celata virtus?

They are no more than the madre del oro; of no essential worth farther than as they point out the vein, which, if it is not dug up, by power and affluence, may lie in eternal obscurity, like a diamond in its natural crust. However, to this dogma, there may be some few  
ex-



exceptions. A man of study and speculation, who has turned, twisted, and distorted his brain, beside the twinkling lamp, and at last brought forth an art, extended science, supported virtue, or made discoveries beneficial to society, may be magnificently rewarded with self-applause; have new patches put upon his elbows, trim his lamp, and renew his studies.

## C H A P. XVI

COURTEOUS reader, whoever thou art, whether satisfied with the cut of my garb, or inclined to suck my small remains of brain, give me leave to present thee with the sweet satisfaction of prying, conjecturing, sifting, applying the view of investigation, and hopes of possession, that have more pleasure frequently than a full accomplishment of the aim. Thus disposed to oblige and entertain thy leisure minutes,

minutes, thou wilt expect that I shall not deviate from the intent of moral writers, to give salutary advice, rectify the passions, adjust manners, and improve the heart. To this end, be severe in thy chastisements of the immoral poor; throw consummate candour into all thy words and actions that relate to the great, those excellent personages who humbly content themselves with the grosser gleanings of this world; be dumb; observant; a fool. Wouldst thou expose intelligence to a beauty; be wise and rival not her charms. Ladies rightly judge that intelligent persons will be thinking, plodding, and contriving, when they ought to be better engaged; wasting

wasting their spirits for the public good, when private things should be attended to. Not to degress too far on a subject that may be handled more largely in some subsequent volume, we will return, and endeavour to find the passage, gut, or cranny, we slipped through, which though it may not be quite so difficult to discover as a north-west passage, yet requires us to tack about, as the noble captain did when he found his needle frozen stiff in the binnacle.

Ever since that immense swarm of atoms, which wise men of old have spoken of, tumbled accidentally into the shape of a world, and afforded  
habita-

habitations for the ingenious Mr. Be—w's pre-existent men, fish, flesh, and fowl, the words fool, and sensible, have been circulated from friend to neighbour, and from neighbour to friend, with a liberality that would do honour to the polished J——: they have travelled over the same ground and met so frequently under the same robe, that the most curious lens would scarcely enable us to discern the difference and distinction between them; did not experience point out their quality. To be sensible, you must act with wisdom, be guided by reason, truth, and the rectitude of your mind. But this mode of proceeding, says Experience, has something of disgusting  
stub-

stubbornness, and arrogance in it, that obtrudes upon dignity, and excludes the intervention of mankind, that pleasing society, which is the result of mutual condescension and obligingness. When people do not oblige, can it be expected that the world will oblige them, nay, will they not consider them as acting independently with an air of superiority that deserves their resentment and makes them seek your ruin? Where is the wisdom of causes which produce such effects? Does not the excellence of qualities appear from trial and experience? and what excellence do thine discover when they bring misery and want? With what splendor



dor will thy wisdom shine within a bare-walled gloomy cell? Is such a place the palace of Wisdom? That pure virgin ranges beneath the gilded dome in grandeur, and magnificence, and will not bear with the soul of a Latimer, or the honesty of an Arabian, if thy stiffened vest, like the ladies hoops at Vienna, threatens to bruise her shins.

How different is the effect of that modest resignation of our senses to the guidance of others, which some have erroneously called Folly; that lovely simplicity which, as the child of innocence, is dandled on every knee, that smiles on every disposition, promotes others pleasures,

unites with a superior's aims, and  
 applauds all his humours: this  
 temper gently glides along the  
 stream of life, and, entwining with  
 the affections, climbs as the ivy  
 round the stately oak! Oh happy  
 Timothy! what thousands of he-  
 catombs didst thou owe to the son  
 of Saturn for creating thee a fool,  
 enduing thee with those gentle re-  
 quisites that set thee at the head of  
 the Athenian armies, and gave thee  
 bright renown? Charming qualities  
 that triumphed over the rigid rules  
 imposed by the \* Roman goddess,

\* Virtue was worshiped as a goddess by  
 the Romans. M. Marcellus built a temple  
 to her, as a passage to the temple of honour  
 adjoining.

and

and placed Monsieur le Duc at the helm of a mighty empire: the intelligent, the judicious, the wise, called him the filliest fellow in nature. How must he smile at their wisdom, hold their sagacity in admiration, when he saw it cloathed in silk in the depth of winter, whilst he enjoyed the warmth of ermine! They were wise: they would not depart from the rectitude of their minds, nor bend the laws of moral propriety. Is it at all surprizing that they enjoyed the produce of their own sublime dogmata, as Penny, Forestall, and Boys did, who, not discerning the necessity of littering their master's horse up to the eyes, were compelled to walk barefooted,

carrying a bag full of straw upon their backs, chaunting as they went, with the glee of choristers ?

This bag full of straw I bear on my back,  
Because my lord's horse his litter did lack ;  
If ye be not good to my lord's dapple nag,  
You'll surely walk barefooted bearing a bag.

These fellows were wise and prudent : they thought it sufficient to litter the horse to his belly, and valued themselves upon propriety, consistency and honesty : silly rascals ! look at the dumb creation, and see the variegated plumage of those who pick every tree. See the industrious bee, who collects so much sweetness as he does ; whose apartments

ments are more elegant and ingenious ! Does he not sip of every cup, where any sweetness is to be gathered ; and if any presume to touch his riches, does he not draw his dagger, and pierce the daring hand ? In what do men shew their superiority to the lion, tyger, or bear, more than in preying upon their own species ? Some dreamers, numberless centuries since, thought that men deduced their superiority from understanding, and a certain mode of acting, which they thought amiable, and called virtuous ; but that opinion could not be long entertained ; for the Pythagorean cock, which Lucian says had been successively a man, a woman, a prince,

a subject, a fish, an horse, and a frog, found, by experience, that intelligence and human ability was the most burdensome and deplorable load in the world: from this decision Gryllus was allowed to be wiser than Ulysses; for when Circe had turned him into a hog, he was too sensible to resign his hoggishness, and leave his favourite sty. Does not the sweet-flowing Virgil perpetually celebrate the piety and goodness of his hero, who deserted the lovely Creüsa, and comforted Dido for the loss of her husband Sichæus? And does not Homer, that prince of poets, who knew mankind as well as ever any Asiatic did, always paint Ulysses as a most miserable and unhappy prince?



prince? but never imputes folly to Achilles, Agamemnon, or Menelaüs : and, therefore, when the former dressed himself in petticoats, and lay concealed in the arms of Deidamia, at the court of King Lycopedes, the second sacrificed Iphigenia, and the third left a pretty fellow at home to entertain his wife, the beauteous Helen, whilst he made an excursion :—they must have acted with true wisdom and propriety.

## C H A P. XVII.

**I**NDEED, after this authority, there is but little necessity to enter farther on the subject : daily experience shews us, that, what we call genius, is the most remote from value, worth, and felicity, of any quality a man can be possessed of ; and the more we consider the subject, the clearer we shall discern the wisdom of the Mahometans, in paying idiots more respect and attention than any other people. The Melasgeans

geans are not, indeed, arrived at such a pitch of politeness; but, as we well know refinements have a gradual progress, it is not to be doubted they will soon attain to it; for those already who have the misfortune to fall a little short of that eminence, though they are not venerated as saints, are caressed as next in affinity, loaden with honours and preferment, wealth, and grandeur, appointed arbiters of disputes and judges of science.

Look around the various pleasing scenes that delight the eye; trace the lonely forest, the aspiring mountaintops, and skim the verdant lawn; behold the sea, the river, the brook, the  
4. fountain,

fountain, the air ; review whatever wears the marks of vivid beauty, and find, if there thou can'st, the hand of wisdom ! Is not the dove, the linnet, the gold-finch, soon entraped and resigned to his gilded prison insensible of the blessings of nature ? Will not the stag, the goat, the kid, the lamb, kiss the hand that is prepared to be imbrued in its blood ? Do not the roving lords of the immense deep pursue the boats, solicitous to be taken ? and will not the sportive inhabitants of rivers and brooks croud to the light held out for their destruction ? In ladies, indeed, every charm breathes wisdom, and is the basis of understanding ; but in man, wisdom is not  
con-

congenial with the rich traces of beauty. The active powers of the mind, which accumulate wisdom, give the person too much exercise; absorbing the soft fluids in feeding their ideas, which should swell the fine vessels of the cheeks and spread a blooming colour, leave it pale and wan; so that with wisdom you see nothing but wretchedness.

These speculations, handed down from father to son, in this island, have made the deepest impressions; so that generally, ideas of natural beauty, instead of inciting that warm delight and rapturous pleasure which youthful ardor feels in other regions, here, in those who  
are

are devoted to the intellect, create abhorrence; and you may observe that they who are unfortunately possessed of natural beauty, use every art to conceal, disguise, and pervert it: every one aims at that charming ugliness that speaks ability, invention, and distinction: some, indeed, are passionately fond of shewing a proximity to nature, in manners and sentiment, and are so particularly guided by it, that it influences their moral, social, and religious conduct, pervades every scene of life and action, and, obviating those innovations which moderns have fancied to be improvements, exclude a possibility of that shame and disgrace, which other countries are liable



liable to. If you intimate that corporeal indulgencies are unbecoming the dignity of man, they immediately unfold the philosophy of nature upon you, as an irresistible battery, and insist that man, compounded of soul and body, has a two-fold sphere of action: the former is adapted to the inspection of abstract things, the latter of material. That we are, in our corporeal nature, mere animals, and, therefore, it would be counteracting the designs of nature not to indulge it in the freedom of the animal world, and permit it as the hare or deer, to browse in every pasture. Should you urge the necessity of conforming to social laws, as necessary to the peace  
and

and happiness of individuals, to support order and government, the general union of empire, they reply, men are by nature free, and none may deprive them of what God has given them with existence; and therefore, they are not amenable to bands of others forming. From these notions, you, probably, who have been used to draw conclusions from certain contracted positions, may conjecture, that they are the most turbulent and perverse people upon earth, yet none are so solicitous for the public weal, none are so loyal, there are no better subjects in the world, and, with respect to their religious and moral sentiments, because they have the same principle as the gentle

### A TRIP TO MELASGE. III

creatures beyond the Apalacian mountains, in Caffaria and Macoko build on, you may think they are latitudinarians; or probably that they reject every species of obligation and adoration, or at most sacrifice only on the grand altar of the world: however, here, my dear Sir, you will find rational deductions, like other human powers, do not always tend to one centre; if you give me leave I will attend you to an adjoining temple.

### CHAP.

## C H A P. XVIII.

ADVANCING with a slow pace, I could not suspend the most serious reflections : I became disturbed, and felt my rational powers jarring like contending elements : I was firmly persuaded that erroneous causes must have erroneous effects ; but here I found that principles, institutions, and manners, which promote nothing but what is base, barbarous, and infamous, in other countries, constitute this people the most

most elegant, the most virtuous, most obliging, and most modest beings in the world. This surprizing effect appeared to me inscrutable ; nor can I form an idea of it, unless we suppose there is an essential difference in the constituent parts of their bodies, that the blood does not circulate through the ventricles of the heart, or that an alkaline substance, incorporated with the brain, occasioning a perpetual fermentation, stirs up imaginations, conceptions, and operations in them, which are never observed in any other of the human species. These conjectures were not satisfactory : the more I thought, the deeper I plunged ; therefore, giving up all

hopes of attaining the rationale at present, I determined to lay the case before the most acute physical and metaphysical societies I should have it in my power to consult. Thus resolved, in the instant the temple opened to our view.

This noble edifice was situated on a hill, dressed in perpetual verdure, whose stately top seemed to be hid in the azure sky: the way to it was by an easy ascent, amidst the finest trees loaden with the richest fruits of every clime, which, in spiral lines, wreathed the mountain from its foot to the summit. Ascending, you view such scenes of varied beauty, as were never before assembled.



bled. Nature seemed to have collected her choicest gifts, and fixed them here to captivate the mind; and, as you advance towards them, they diffuse a delightful fragrance that animates and refreshes the spirits more than the gardens of Alcinoüs. When you arrive at the summit, the atmosphere being free from vapour, your eye is charmed with the beauties of a most extensive prospect, diversified as the work of a perfect master. Here the rich verdure, ornamented with groups of spreading trees, fed by refreshing streams, is illustrated by the barren waste, that at a distance seems to parch the weary traveller: there you see the plains covered with

flocks, cropping the pasturage, and climbing over the pathless mountain, studded with massive rocks: drawn forth by the resistless hand of Time: here the seat of extensive empire surrounded with magnificence and splendor, and there the humble cottage clad in simple neatness: here populous cities raising their gilded spires above the lofty buildings; streets thronged with busy crowds proclaiming a spirit of industry; ports full of ships, bound to the torrid zone, for ivory or sovereign gold, or to interchange with distant regions the produce of their climes, severally conspire with peculiar beauties to grace and ornament the matchless whole. Long could

could I have dwelt on the surrounding choice of engaging objects of admiration, had not my companion drawn my attention to the temple, which I entered with as much awe and veneration as if I was about to appear in the immediate presence of the Deity: the floor was mosaic, glistening with veins of gold and silver, that branched on every side: the walls were of the finest porphyry; and the pillars, which supported the ceiling, were of pellucid marble, as white as the driven snow, through which you saw the gold and silver veins descend, and communicate by the base, to the mosaic work beneath: the ceiling was of azure ground, adorned with paintings,

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representing the most worthy scenes transacted in this mortal state: in some places you saw persons in the humblest dress, surrounded by chiefs of various regions, listening to their instructions; in others, kings, whose wise laws and institutions, had been a blessing to their subjects, crowned with the sublimest grandeur and dignity, the result of happiness, and conscious virtue: here you viewed, with pleasure, groups of men, whose moral lessons had softened the asperity of Nature, and cultivated civility and beneficence; there numbers who taught the milder arts of peace, and the gentler manners of domestic life. In all these the light and shade were so judi-

judiciously expressed, that you no sooner viewed the piece than you read the history, and knew the path that led them to applause and admiration. With what infinite pleasure did I gaze on these instructive representations ! my mind was fixed on the scene, and my soul was exalted by contemplation ; as if, fastened to the mosaic floor, I stood with eager eye surveying these wonders, reviewing the splendor of the dome, in which millions of gems, studded in diverse forms, beamed their glory all around, displaying, in the highest magnificence, the boundless genius of an unequalled artificer.

Whilst I was thus lost in admiration, the hour of sacrifice arrived, the triple sound assembled the devout people, and the high priest entered within the sacred walls, with humble reverence, conscious of the divine presence; the exalted story which adorned the ceiling, seemed to live in him, a native grandeur incircled his humility, and the seriousness of his devotion communicated a glow of zeal to all the congregation, and raised their souls to the Sovereign Lord of all: before him appeared those alone whose distinguished qualities and talents were adequate to the most honourable offices, that important function, which is the public voice  
of



of adoration, and intercession to the throne of God; those whose erudition and intimate knowledge of human nature, whose persuasive eloquence, whose gentle manners, and irreproachable life, acquired the esteem and veneration of men; these were the object of his respect and regard, and these, as their principal, seemed only to seek the love of God and good of mankind.

I could not restrain the impetuosity of my sensations, and exclaimed, "Oh happy people, thus to enjoy the pure stream of piety and devotion! to have it recommended by all the force of eloquence, the strength of reason, and irresistible in-

influence of example ! How blest with more than mortal felicity, as the sons and immediate favourites of Heaven !” How did my heart exult with the warmest strains of rapture, and paint the inchanting scenes of universal harmony and love ! How did my delighted eye trace the gentle streams which flowed from this pure fountain, in their soft meandering ; enriching, with more than golden mines, the humble cottage, and the busy world ! With what pleasure did I view their charming influence on the savage heart, leading on benevolence to the throne of pure religion ! Lost in these reflections, long would I have indulged the pleasure that sprung before me, and  
each

each moment ravished my mind with augmented beauty; but my guide, impatient, roused me from my reverie, reminded me that other objects required our attention. I left the temple with awe and veneration: my soul, warmed to piety and devotion, seemed to suffer violence in withdrawing from scenes congenial to its nature, and I followed my conductor reluctant, regardless of surrounding objects, until we entered a venerable structure on which revolving Time, long since, had pressed its scailing hand: a sacred gloom mantled the spacious nave, and silence reigned through the stupendous vault; the gentle whispers of intruding wind, and  
 suc-

successive clickings of the clock's progressive motion, alone obtrude on the awful calm ; art and nature combined to fill the imagination with solemnity, and lead the mind to seriousness and consideration : I felt the force in humble reverence, raised my thoughts to the Deity, and, in private ejaculations, implored for mercy. In the midst of my devotion, dashing doors rolled thunders through the aisles, and re-echoed in the lofty dome. Starting from my devotions, I thought these sounds announced the approach of some majestic chief, whose silvered age, or simple dignity, would command reverential awe, and, like the structure, strike the mind with veneration ;

tion; when there tripped by me a pretty youth, dressed in a flowing mantle of fable silk: his fine hair in front, like the distended feathers of a swan, swimming before the wind, was rolled behind in a white ringlet, to represent, I presume, the sacred fillet used at the ancient sacrifices: his smiling countenance discovered no less inward complacency and satisfaction with his genius than conviction of his external graces, elegance, and beauty: he soon ascended the chair to instruct and point the way to celestial regions, to raise the mind to fervent piety, and draw a beam of glory on the devout soul. What emphatic powers did he display! not a muscle

was.

was excused its exertion; the hand which rivalled the snow in whiteness, was wide expanded, the chest elevated, the eye rolled, and all those refined graces unfolded, that would have shone in the beauteous train of Grecian dames, leading up the dance on the enamelled plains of Tempé! What melting eloquence flowed from his silver tongue! Each enchanting strain more melodious than the other, drew all regard, and left the mind absorbed in the softer music of the concluding tone.

My companion perceived my admiration; and, willing to neglect none of the eminent qualities which  
dis-



distinguished the Melasgeans, assured me, that, though the gentleman I had heard, was possessed of the acumen of eloquence, grace, and piety, there were others, of the sable habit, who justly claimed attention and respect. Men versed in art and science, acquainted with trade and business, which enabled them to instruct the illiterate, and reach their genius in their own way; who having similar ideas and sentiments, that happy versatility of temper which the good man Proteus of old recommended, were capable of adapting themselves to their disciples, and following them in all their turns of action, until they had obtained an ascendancy in their

affections, conducted them to the desired point.

“ Your thoughts, Sir, I replied, have a refinement upon wisdom that I never should have conceived : it never could have entered my imagination that a medium kind of creature, between a divine and a layman, something like a mule amongst animals, with this essential difference, that the former propagates its species, and the latter does not, should be valuable and meritorious. I have always thought that men of versatile principles could impress but little goodness on others ; that those who sacrificed occasionally to the virtues, were ill qualified to teach

teach others to make their offerings, and that those who were unsteady in religion must be incapable of displaying its beauties, and honouring it in their lives and conversations, unfolding those beams of glory which irradiate the pure soul, and guide others in the way that is direct and invariable."

"I do not know, Sir (rejoined my conductor), your observations seem to have a philosophic cast that probably will not do in practice; this is certain, I humbly conceive that, if divines can reach peoples affections, it matters not how they do it: to bend a little to the manners of the times will engage approbation,

and establish the reputation of a good sort of a man ; a character (as you may not be acquainted with it in your country, I will be particular in describing it) the most caressed, and most deservedly admired ; for who can but be pleased with a person who does little harm, is decent in public, and possesses the appearance of sense and virtue ? no matter whether his words and actions have affinity with the heart : few, indeed, love him, or think ill of him, respect or despise him ; and must he not be very good to whom every one is his dear sir, who devotes himself to the rich and powerful ? Who talks little is always of opinion with the company, and sometimes enliven

liven's it with a facetious ſtory ; by which means he diſcovers his good ſenſe and diſcernment ; whoſe habitual conformity to the ſentiments of others, enables him to aſſent without the leaſt trouble or reflection ; ſo that he often replies, in the ſpace of a few minutes, ‘ You are perfectly right, Sir : what you ſay is very juſt, to ſentiments totally oppoſite to each other.’ If he dines with you, he never omits to hob or nob with your lady, drink every body’s health, ſeparately at table, taſte of every diſh for the pleaſure of praizing it, play with little maſter and miſs, expreſs his admiration of the beauty of the ſmiling cherubims, how much they are like mama and papa, and

gives them comfits, which he always provides for such occasions ; by these means he secures the lady's esteem, makes every gentleman in company his dear sir, and good friend, is in nobody's way, is acknowledged to be a good sort of a man, and deservedly acquires universal applause and commendation. Gentlemen thus happily qualified, do not, by their learning, cause others to feel themselves dolts, nor, by a display of virtue and sentiment, contrast the dye of other characters ; than which nothing can be more intolerable and odious. Men of stubborn principles, swayed by conscience, and influenced by virtuous considerations, are ungovernable, ever  
liable



liable to suspicion. Who was more suspected than Seneca? Who was ever viewed in a more odious light than Plato. Thoughtfulness, though it be the result of study, has an irksomeness in it that is displeasing and to be dreaded.

For these and various other reasons, the most polite and judicious never assume the austere face of consideration: they only cultivate the smiling, complacent, obedient, and reject the dangerous paths of study, as destructive of comfort and peace; and the people, collecting ideas from their visible conduct, are arrived to the happy state of not thinking at all; are satisfied that the most refined

morality is inconsistent with rational improvement; that none can be truly free from immoral sentiments and actions but those who are ignorant and unacquainted with science: so prolific has been this good sort of conduct in propagating offshoots from the great tree of truth and knowledge, that thirty thousand have sprung from it in this island, in a short time, and an old corrupt branch, that was sinking into rottenness, begins to spring anew. Clem, who had long worn a tattered jacket, pulled up his breeches; and swore he would have it new laced; and, certain of a numerous resort of customers and lodgers, he fitted up his apartments,

ordered

ordered an hundred thousand missals, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. to be printed; a grand collection of new relicks to be made and dispersed to the comers, and issued orders, that, if any died in their way to his farm, they should be free from the pains of Hell, and gave \* positive orders to the angels to take their souls from their bodies, and carry them directly to Paradise, without touching at purgatory, or baiting by the way; so that, as he had freed them from the danger of pain and expence, he did not in the least doubt he should have as numerous a retinue as Peter the Hermit had, when he

\* Orders of Pope Clement VI.

manured the eastern sands with the rich animal fluid of the western world.

Clem's conjectures, suppositions, deductions, and preparations, wisely founded on the propensity of the times, and the evident necessity the age was under of scouring, strengthened them by appointing a bull-baiting; a most humane exercise to circulate the juices, open the pores, and throw off the morbid matter, that would otherwise burst out in tumors and blains. The generality highly approved of the prescription, as the indulgence consequent on violent exercise, is no less pleasing and beneficial to a body fatigued with

ex-

exertion than exercise itself is strengthening, healthful, and animating; but, unfortunately for the cause, many, having lately fallen into a philosophic disposition, on examining Peterism, found, that it should not be entered upon immediately, with haste and extravagance, but be reserved for a bon bouche; that, if any disgusting effluvia should arise from their experiments, they may there rinse their mouths, and take their evening dose with gusto; thus securing the viaticum, they sit down to bottle air, analyze its peditalian properties, and examine the profundities of nature, under the direction of a leader of the deepest capacity, and most ready genius.

Who'll

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Who 'll write for four presses, give the  
child pap

That fits on his knee, and plays with his  
cap ;

Just as easy as Sukey the pudding can tie,  
Or sing to poor Tommy the soft lullaby.

CHAP.



C H A P XXI.

**T**HIS philosopher, you must know Sir, was, a few years since, a Bramin, the most remarkable in all the East for analization of air, fire, and divinity, and one of the most remarkable travellers the earth ever produced: the earth I say; for the first of his family was an Ornus of mount Oeta, torn from the ground by Hercules, from whence a seed was carried by a black eagle, and dropped under the line, an hundred de-

degrees east of Melasge, and would have perished for want of nutriment, had not Prometheus, a relation of the Ornus family in Oeta, warmed its generative powers, and, in nine months, so directed the course of vegetation, that it produced a man from whom the Bramins are descended; who, by long observation and experience, having found, that every natural discharge has a tendency to vividness; and, not knowing but some animals, produced by their bodies, may be near in the shape of flies, &c. sweep the ground as they walk, lest they should trample on a relation, murder an infant offspring, and, in dashing their bodies to pieces, annihilate their souls. These ideas incited

incited all their humanity, and permitted not our philosopher to move from the seat where he found himself deposited, and, in all probability, he never would have ventured to move and hazard the destruction of millions that swarm within each particle of matter, had he not observed the prolific state of his own body, which, being exposed to the perpendicular rays of the sun, perpetually stilled a vast quantity of fluid into the receptacles of the stone he sat on, which imbibing generative heat, became animalcula, and in immense numbers flew round him, and filled the air. Finding so many of his family, rising in the atmosphere, wafted with velocity towards the clouds, he  
con-

conceived that, what is produced from the same body must be homogeneous, however diversified in shape and figure, and, therefore, nothing hindered one from possessing the full enjoyment and powers of the other but the disposition of the parts; wherefore if he could, by any means, make the powers of the winged produce of his body subservient to himself, he may fly through the air, travel through any country, place or region. Full of this idea, he carefully preserved the drops which trickled from him, by turning their course to a central channel, and, suspending a bottle by a string to receive them, these drops soon became animalcula, and of the class of

winged insects. He fastened the finest filaments of camel's hair to their legs, and conjoined them to a general cord, in order to know how many could suspend his body: he made various trials, sitting on a stick, as they do when they collect birds and eggs in the Hebrides; and at length, finding what number could convey him, with ease, and that he could guide and direct them with facility, by strings of communication, he determined to be convinced what was the height of the atmosphere, above the terrestrial globe; and, fastening himself on his stick, proceeded on his journey; at first rather slowly; the density of the atmosphere, near the earth, impeding the flies' passage; but,

but, becoming more rare, they rushed forward with amazing velocity, and soon floated on the surface of that imperceptible fluid. Having thus executed his aim, he dismissed some of his flies, in order to descend, as he ascended, perpendicularly, and be deposited at his former habitation; but, in his approximation to the earth, he felt himself influenced by the magnetic power of the pole, and borne away north west, with a rapidity that astonished and made him tremble, lest he should be dashed against the icy mountains within the polar circle, or be stuck in the pole's eye, as the nails were in the rock of Adamant. In this dilemma, he discharged several more  
I of



of his flies, in order to increase his gravitation, and descend to lower latitudes. This answered his most sanguine wishes ; and, in about six hours from the commencement of his journey, he happily rejoined the earth. Thus freed from the attractive power, he looked around, conjecturing where he was : he felt the morning breeze pinch his naked body, and saw a country dissimilar to his own. Now a dread lest wild beast, or more savage man, should devour him, succeeded : he resolved to seek his natale solum, adjusted his seat, stimulated his flies, and loosened the reins. How great was his surprize ! His vehicle did not stir ! His winged equipage, chilled by the

nocturnal air, was incapable of motion, and, had they retained their vigor, were not sufficiently numerous to carry him ! Distracted, he wandered about, and, entering a village, was met by some men going to their daily labour, who, shocked at his appearance, would have fled ; but thinking he might have been robbed and stripped, humanity stopped and induced them to afford him aid : they approached him with fear : he met them trembling : their agitations impressed on him apprehensions for his safety : his tremor and pallid dread created in them ideas of his being mad ; a wretch escaped from forlorn cells ; the graves of human pride. Address-

fed, he made no answer. At length he dropped on his knee, supplicating protection: this action satisfied the others he possessed ideas; and that, however different he may be from the generality of the human race and deficient in point of intellect, he certainly was of the human species: they raised him up, and conducted him to the chief man in the neighbourhood, who clothed him, and, being conversant in the Malayan language, became acquainted with his history.

## C H A P XXII.

**H**APPY in the protection of the personage to whom he was conducted, the philosopher soon acquired the Melasgean tongue; was introduced into company, and, being at an entertainment where I was engaged, I had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with him, remarking his manners and sentiments. As soon as he entered the room, where part of the company was assembled, he paid great deference to  
the

the lord and lady of the mansion, taking no notice of others, many of whom were of high rank, and venerable age, until the son of one of the persons present entering, he addressed him with the most humble reverence. Observing our surprize at his conduct, he said it was perfectly consistent with right reason to pay particular deference to youth. The only reason he could conceive why we did not discern the propriety of it was, our never having brought the subject to the test of examination. 'I would beg leave to ask you, whether those who govern, and are most proper to bear rule, are not peculiarly entitled to respect? And is not the youthful season when

the spirits are full of vigor, activity, and imagination, more adapted to govern and direct than one who is borne down by decrepid age? whose ability is frozen by the chilling hand of seventy winters; who boasts no other superiority than what they term Experience, and the effects of prudence, which are, in reality, merely the events of fortune and contingency, inscrutable to human discernment and preception: for what you ridiculously term Prudence in old men, on inspection will be found cowardice, and fear of acting in danger, and when they do not enter upon those hazardous undertakings, in which even youth may sometimes fail, it is not from their foresight  
and



and discernment, but a want of that vital heat, that animating fire, which rouses the noblest flame of magnanimity, and leads on the brave, with generous ardor, predicting success. As for the power of execution, I should wound your judgment, to suppose you did not allow that they alone were possessed of it; that they alone are fit for action. Do you not respect their valour, and hold their courage in honour? and why? Is it not because their prowess can defend you against your enemies? Can you pay the same deference to the withered arm of seventy? Every gift of nature has a peculiar period of glory, which passed, it is no longer an object of admiration. If.

you love a lady, is it not because you are captivated by her youthful charms? Will her wrizzled visage and ghostly paleness have the same effect in silvered age? Would it not be madness to suppose it? Can the man, whose wit, whose humour, and vivacity charmed you, still give delight when his head trembles with palsy, when the organs of genius and imagination are decayed, and he is scarcely possessed of reason? Have not all the heroes of antiquity established their glory when they were young men? Have not all the renowned of modern days, extended the grandeur of their country, and immortalized their names whilst the warmth of vital blood fired their minds

minds to noble deeds, and led them in the path of glory, impassable to limping age?

There is a deference due to old age; but just as much as habit teaches you to pay to the venerable mansion where you was born, and the obsolete furniture therein contained; for what do you owe to your terrestrial builder, but your body? Your soul is from above; and, when you die, may, if the divine will orders it, reunite some other body; and chance might have made your father your son, as it has been pleased to make you his: indeed you know not the injury he might have done you: for how are you  
certain

certain it was not the intention of  
of that spirit which descended from  
above, to have generated a mighty  
prince, in the womb of the empress  
of China, that perchance meeting  
your embryo, in the way, was  
detained by it? or, who can declare  
that you might not have been the  
offspring of some lawgiver, or great  
general, and have inherited his fame  
and opulence? What then are you  
indebted to your father for, more  
than the slave is for the food, which  
his master feeds him with, to enjoy  
his bodily labour? And farther, are  
you obliged by an act that never had  
the concurrence of your will? Did  
your father pay the least regard to  
you, or think you worthy of so much  
notice

notice as to consult you of whom, or in what station, you would be born? Was you, whom only the business particularly concerned, in the least attended to? Was you not forced into being, a mode of procedure always disagreeable; for Nature abhors violence, and perhaps, had you been consulted, you would have postponed your being here in expectation of better days; yet, instead of obtaining permission, or the least indulgence of your wishes, though you hallowed and bawled, struggled and squealed, you was drawn into the world, and compelled to give your assistance, and support the feeble efforts of age.

Although I here stand forth in support of free agency, I do not intimate that life is not valuable ; yet we must acknowledge, it is more so at some times, and in some manners, than in others ; however people, disgusted with the obstructions and jarring passions of mankind, may affect to despise life, and say they wish they had never known being : how deficient in sound philosophy is this sentiment ! for did ever any one deny that, being, however short, is preferable to non-existence ? How criminal then must he be who could have given being, but obstinately would not ? He certainly has acted a baser part than if he had murdered the being ; because to have it in his  
power



power to murder a person, supposes it to have being; therefore, your father acted his part to avoid an enormous crime; for however horrid to humanity and unpardonable parricide is, yet, to lock up within his loins those numbers who might have served their country, and done honour to their general nature, must be vastly more wicked, as it deprives them of the blessings of tasting of existence, and confines them to the caverns of impenetrable darkness.'

## C H A P. XXIII.

**T**HIS philosophy appeared to me little better than the dictates of a distempered brain; but, as it is not usual with me to determine without candidly considering the subject, I studiously applied to my reason, suspected that habit and prejudice might have prevailed on me to entertain contrary opinions; yet, after all my concessions to the stranger's dogmata, I never could collect the least grounds to believe that there  
were

were millions of ingenerated beings expecting existence, or that others, which had worn out their earthly dress, were laid by in a dark chamber, as obsolete cloaths, to rot, or be renewed again, as it may happen.

The gentleman observing my dissatisfaction, exclaimed, ‘ I am sorry to observe you do not approve of this philosophy. How can you reconcile it to your acknowledgment that every age is wiser than the former? Certainly no principles were ever more agreeable to reason and nature: they admit of a boundless field of action; give us leave to breathe the free air of wisdom, and permit no bug-bear tenets to obstruct the dictates of luxuriant

triant fancy; the rich demands of  
appetite and desire.

Rosa

Canos odorati capillos  
Dumlicet, Assyriaque nardo  
Potamus uncti ? Dissipat Evius  
Curas edaces.

Let each elastic nerve supply the  
intellect with redundant charms, and  
paint every object in the brightest  
colours; let softest music ravish the  
heart; let the gentle touch of rich  
viands, and most delicious odours,  
convey to the brain adulatory sensa-  
tions; these shall form our ideas,  
whilst Bacchus, Silenus, fauns, and  
satyrs, the sublime principles of  
our faithful vibrations, shall around

us

us lead the festive dance. Oh! charming Philosophy! Should the hand of Misery fill me with horror, should pinching want load my mind with gloom, nobly thou biddest me spurn this being; rescind the line of care. How sublime! How great art thou? Now lordly man soars above the contingent reach of fate, and smiles contempt on all below: no tie restrains his towering spirit; no fetters which clog illiberal minds, impede his will: the world is his, and he will use it at his pleasure."

It is sometimes, indeed, necessary, in order to oblige mankind, apparently to approve of their sentiment and opinions, give way to their

humours and notions, otherwise they would be ill-natured and sulky, bad company, and bad neighbours; and, if your sentiments disgust, to be ready at a subterfuge to get on more agreeable ground.

Stultitiam simulare loco, sapientia summa est.

*To feign the fool, when fit occasions rise,  
Argues the being more completely wise :*

And in general has the happy effect, which the friend of Mecænas celebrates in his epistles,

Me pinguem et nitidum—

—Epicuri de grege porcum.

*My rolls of fat, and skin as glossy lie  
As e'er an hog in Epicurus' sty,*

Not



Not to omit the representation of peculiar utilities, I here intimate that this amiable talent is particularly useful to men in the dependent walks of life: in higher stations, they have the rein in the hand, and need not quarter to please any one; but may, like Boniface IX, declare every opposer of their will *mere withered darnel*, and compel them to say five ave marias at the toleing of the Curfeu, or serve them as John Hufs, and Jerome of Prague were, who were found guilty of the heresy of thinking the council would keep their word, unless they submit as good people should and obey: then they may merit pardon, though they were as thickly

clad \* as Pope John XXIII, especially if they have the happy endowment that glides between break-tooth veracity and criminal lie, that elegant accomplishment of polite company, justly admired, and in vogue ever since Apollo chalked out the way for his son, whose volatile Gallic temper broiled the Artic whales, and, melting the words and sounds, which had been congealed in the frigid zone, for a thousand successive generations, stirred up such a clatter, that the whole hemi-

\* Pope John XXIII, in the council of Constance, in the year 1414, was judged to have poisoned his predecessor Alexander; to be an heretic, a simoniac, a liar, an hypocrite, a murderer, an inchanter, a dice player, an adulterer, and a sodomite.

sphere

sphere was full of crying, howling, knocking, thumping, singing, whistling, grunting, growling, sighing, and whispering, which so terrified the horses, that they plunged and flounced, broke their traces, and, overturning the chariot just over the head of Atlas, burnt his eyes, blackened the Africans, and copperized the Indians, who were fortunately, somewhat protected from the blaze by the periphery of the upper wheel..

## C H A P. XXIV.

**H**ERE many, whom ready wit, and intense application to study have not robbed of memory, will draw me back to my respectful sentiments of juvenile wisdom, and remind me that, if the young hair-brain had been guided by the judgment and experience of his father, the Indians would never have painted the devil white, or established a natural barrier against an European's ever having pretensions to beauty. But I must

must enter my caveat against such a determination, and beg my ingenuous critic to exercise a little of his abundant candour, and not judge from events. The best-concerted attempts have been rendered abortive by trivial incidents. Who could have thought that the learned doctor who proved to the satisfaction of his audience the reality of a perpetual motion, should be stopped in his demonstration, by a set of stupid, lazy wretches, who could not be prevailed on to execute the plan of his machine? Had not experiments been made, innovations started, and enterprises undertaken, in what a barbarous situation would the world have been at this hour? Where

would have been your filks and diamonds, your wines and montifiasco, your chymicals and galenicals, your polemical forbønnists, &c. &c. &c.? Would you be content to drink fair water, scour your intestines with crab-apples, and blackberries, give up the freedom of disputation, and be clothed as prince Voltager was, in the vest of a naked pict? Let us not then suppress the generous ardor of enterprize, by decrying the young man's attempt. Could he have supposed there were such millions of words, sounds, and clatterings, frozen in these regions, or imagined that his horses, who were used to have the thunders roll beneath their feet, would have started at an incoherent



herent clamor, though they had never frequented the synagogue?

Happy for the inhabitants of these temperate latitudes, the conflagration had not only no disagreeable effect on the skin, but communicates through the pores such a portion of elementary heat, as attracted the genius nearer the external parallel, thereby unfolded her brighter tints of virtue and politeness, and impressed it with that dignity, grace, condescension and affability which is the life of consequence, and charm of social intercourse."

Here I ventured to draw the check-string to afford my intelligent conductor

ductor an opportunity of respiration, and exprefs how happy I thought he must be in the society of so elegant, sinoere, and accomplished a people; secretly hoping for the pleasure of shewing my understanding and cleverness, in remarks on the several beauties, and matters of moment he had communicated to me : but my vanity was disappointed; for no sooner had I finished my first sentence, and was adjusting the muscles of my face to a style adequate to the solemnity, importance, and sublimity of my intended disquisition, than he caught the moment, and

Replied, " I have, Sir, an obdurate-  
ness in my constitution that does  
not

not coincide with these refinements : there is not a method that has not been tried to bring it into fusion, to soften, or bend it : it has been hammered, put into the furnace, been oiled, unguented, lackered, and greased, to make it supple, yet it cheated them as completely as the devil was when he taught St. Bernard the seven verses in the Psalms. Nature has her peculiarities, sensations, and feelings ; men their singularities, and time its variableness. The Melasgeans once thought religion and morality necessary to form the gentleman, support society ; and the wisest man of his time, I trow, was of opinion, that Nature should have appropriated itching to a rank above  
sub-

subjection; but the former opinion is obsolete, and nature is so exceedingly stubborn with respect to the latter, that she has never listened to a remonstrance upon the subject, so that itching is now as common as veracity was when \* Theseus chanted the willalou over his father Egeus; and scarcely is there a bit of blue, red, or green ribbon hung out, but numbers are itching for it; or a stall and cottage to be disposed of, but a bustle ensues to possess it, merely for sake of its pleasing situation and prospect, the simple neatness of

\* It is here conjectured that the cry of *αλειου σου, σου*, used in the feast of Osofphoria, might have been the origin of the cry used by the Papists in Ireland over their dead.

the

the mansion and wholesomeness of the air; and, indeed, there is such a natural affinity between hearing, seeing, and itching, that nothing is heard of or seen, by which people may be enabled to serve themselves, or the community in a more distinguished manner, than they begin to itch and scratch as if the whole skin was covered with pimples and blotches; and, indeed, you will scarcely see a lady with a *sans* *prandre*, that does not give her chair two or three scrubs upon the occasion; an argument *è posteriori* that itching is centric in the female circle.

Nay

Nay, so universally does it prevail, that there is not a Neapolitan galley-slave, though he breathes the softest gales impregnated with the sweetest odours, hears the musicians enchanting tunes, who does not itch for a country walk, and long for a little diversified exercise; for that which rouses these gentlemen from sleep is too partial to be perfectly salubrious, the back, the sides, the arms may be duly exercised whilst the bowels, knees, and ancles, are debilitated for want of use, and they are subject to gravel, stone, swelled legs, tumors and that irksomeness so visible amongst great people, a fatigue of being long in one place; so that it is not be wondered that these



these good masters, however musical-ly inclined, should itch for new scenes, new intercourse, and new company. The mind is averse to a routine of the same ideas and amusements; for though they may be as pretty wits, ingenious artists, and as facetious a set of gentlemen as ever avoided the company of the holy brotherhood, yet humour and skill is not well exhibited in every place, and upon all occasions, and can no more show its natural elasticity at particular times, than——did, when he forgot to go to bed to his lady on their wedding night.”

## C H A P. XXV.

**H**OW deep within the mystic veil of philosophic powers my friend would have entered I cannot say, had not his attention been withdrawn by a croud of people assembled at a small distance from us, listening to the harangue of a person in a mourning dress: his long black hair hung negligently upon his shoulders, and his hollow bosom resounded the blows he gave it, as in an agony of despair, whilst tears

in torrents suffused his meager countenance. This orator, my conductor informed me, is one of those offshoots of holy men, who, relinquishing the genteel company that inhabit the area of the temple, travel amidst the rocks and luxuriant weeds which spring at the foot of the mountain, to trim and graff them upon their own stocks : they profess to lop off exuberance, and, privately, with all the wisdom of provident gardeners, nourish the infant growth, lest the vineyard should sink into decay. Scarcely had he given me this intelligence, when up mounted another on a stage, dressed in a superb manner, attended by a servant in a variegated livery, and soon, by

his rhetoric, gained the congregation, incited the rustic grin, and loud applause of laughter. The former, highly offended at the preference given to his competitor, raved and bel-lowed like a Venetian advocate, distressed that his vociferation, action, and crying, were so little attended to: with consummate skill he changed his manner of attack, exclaiming, "Come here, my worthy friends: here, gentlemen, is the balsamic packet; here is the genuine healing salve; here your teeth may be drawn without your feeling it." This species of eloquence had its desired effect: he again attracted the notice of the wanderers, surprized at their former want of discernment;

and now, with uplifted eyes, lengthened visages, and open mouths, they gaze and swallow every word he utters in solemn silence. Presently the inward eye began to open, and view the horrid treasure they had accumulated for many a year, and thrust forth the rending sigh: now a groan follows close upon the sigh, and sighs crowding on the groans, overcame the preacher's voice, and drown loud thumpings of his hollow breast: at length a calm ensued: their sins were evaporated; they felt themselves quite pure; seeing an influence over them, as Siodrophel by chance espied; and each being willing to lay hold on it, the whole congregation began to

caper and spring, bound and jump,  
 like Morris, or Moorish dancers,  
 endeavouring to seize it, and be drag-  
 ged up at once ; but none of them  
 succeeding, each condemned his  
 neighbour for crowding on him,  
 hindering his agility, and being the  
 occasion of his not flying through  
 the air, as

A comet, and without a beard,  
 Or star that ne'er before appear'd ;  
 Then they as signs would drawn have been,  
 To th' houses where the planets inn.

Thus disappointed, they began to  
 grumble and abuse, growl and kick  
 shins, curse and wish each other to  
 the devil, as heartily as the council



of Milan did each other when Peter put on his bonnet, swore he would have the elbow chair, and turned Athanasius out of his house. And great reason had they to spar and kick at losing the only opportunity of promotion they possibly ever may have. Had either of them flown into these excellent houses of entertainment, he might have been appointed carter to Charles's Wain, or, being a luminary, he might at least have been stuck up in the stable, to light the hostler whilst he dressed the team; or, should he even have had the misfortune to lose his hold in his passage above the earth's shadow, he might have been suspended like Mahomet's tomb, between Heaven and earth, and,

having the glow and consistence of a cinder, have answered the use of phosphorus, and directed his brethren, should any of them go that way in a dark night. Nothing, therefore, could be more deplorable and unfortunate than this mischance, and deprivation of advancement : some are of opinion that it was occasioned by a defect in one or more of the senses, or, probably, by their taking too powerful a dose of balsam animarific, which rendered the optic nerves incapable of drawing the rays of light to a focus, &c. &c. but, in short, the generality of people, after thoroughly considering, dividing, and subdividing the subject, and finding no solid particle to lay hold on,

on, have candidly confessed they cannot discover on what principle of philosophy to found it. Not discouraged by these difficulties, I determined to lay it before the learned of every denomination, whose deep inspections into the arcana of nature promised the fairest to oblige me with a solution. After applying to many whose engagements deprived them of an opportunity of serving me, I stated the case to that renowned son of Hippocrates, so justly admired for his pathology, who immediately, with a clearness, judgment, and precision which characterises the man, answered, "How is all this? Can't be understood! eh! not understood! systematical common sense! Was

ever any thing heard to equal it ?  
 impressed, perceived, conceived,  
 analized mentally, and then digested,  
 bearing to it the smallest gradation  
 of analogical semblance.

“ Now, had it been an energeti-  
 cal system of systematically geome-  
 tric spherics, and faculty-racking  
 doctrine of proportions; an offus-  
 cated treatise of labyrinthical, cre-  
 busical, chaofetical, hieroglyphicks;  
 an elaborate, dark, intricate, con-  
 fused, bewildered, dumbfounding  
 and confounding involution of theo-  
 logical discussions, dissertations, ven-  
 tilations, considerations, and incul-  
 cations; or even, Sir, any skull-  
 cracking, brain-breaking, puzzling,  
 per-

perplexing, embarrassing, entangling, stupifying, torpefying, benumbing folio, of sublime, celestial, exalted, extatic, enthusiastic metaphysics, there might have been a non so che in favour of it; but, oh dear! it makes me laugh! that the learned, even the very learned! should enter into such a conspicuous betrayal of mental imbecility, as to dultishly confess, that no degree of mental perfection faculty enlightenment: nor, Sir, reasonable maturity could be perceived in so simple a case, wherein nothing formidable occurs, save simple systems, nervous systems, debilities, enervations, powers, energies, and the like: but, to make amends, I  
 hope,

hope, Sir, to give you full satisfaction : read this pamphlet ; ‘ The description of Nevis’

“ Why, learned Sir, what can the description of Nevis have to do with the philosophic reasons that restrained those men from bounding above the earth’s shadow, and taking up their quarters in the Zodiac ?”

“ Why, Sir, read my Nevis ; read my Nevis : here it is.

“ Nevis is a small island, of an irregular figure, approaching to that of roundness, where the extremities of the trees attract the cause of the suspension of the vapours of the atmosphere,



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mosphere; and down they generally fall in showers. There, Sir, there is the solution of your postulatam: observe, all the cause of suspension being fastened to the extremities of the trees in Nevis, it was impossible these gentlemen could be suspended at Melasge: if they had been a little elevated, as circumstances turned out, they must have fallen down again soon, in showers, as the extremities of the trees did in Nevis."

CHAP.

## C H A P. XXVI.

GENTLE friend, whoever thou art, who hast thus far travelled with me through various scenes of excellence and refinement of new manners, and new things, here bait a while, and taste the dishes that have been offered to thy palate; weigh their solid worth; measure their contents with geometrical exactness, and, when they square not with thy interest and satisfaction, let not the strongest evidence, deductions, proofs,

proofs, or remonstrances, prevail on thee to militate against thy will, or induce thee to think that thy cranium pandendron is not the cottage of truth, and guardian of skill and ingenuity. Thus equipped, externals will have no more effect upon thee than they had upon the gummed taffeta jerkin. The noble flame of conscious excellence, superior intelligence and dignity, will raise thee above the little cavils of ignorant snarlers, and feed thy warmest sentiments with satisfaction and self-applause.

Thou wilt, with peculiar magnanimity, smile at petulance, which flaps her dusty wings, and scatters  
abuse

abuse around ; that offspring of malevolence and ill-will, that knows not to venerate and applaud the virtuous, or feel the candid glow of honour. Thou wilt hold in sovereign contempt those who cannot discover thy immense worth and value, and, though thy once-black coat should in every part betray its lining, thou wilt not be degraded from thy rank : these are not thyself : thou art immoveable. Did Coriolanus ever appear with greater dignity than when he heard his sentence of banishment ? Or did Caractacus ever shine in arms with half the glory his fortitude represented him in chains before the Roman Emperor ? Intrinsic worth will bear the  
scale

scale in times of the worst complexion. Acquired accomplishments, though of second class, are not to be rejected : they polish and adorn, prepossess and attract our esteem, of which I had the fullest conviction on my arrival at Melasge, and shall ever recollect with becoming gratitude and regard.

I left my native shore in one of those vernal morns which diffuse peculiar beauty, accelerate the spirits, and raise the mind to wonder and adore. We sailed before a gentle gale, which swelled our crowded sails, and spread the deck with saline spray, that sprung from the foaming wave. As the golden rays which  
bordered

bordered the horizon expanded with genial heat, and brought on the day, at a great distance we saw Melasge as a cloud ascending from the sparkling sea, and, in a few hours, descried a boat approaching from the shore, full of men, adorned with flowing streamers sporting in the wind, to welcome our arrival. Surprized at the Melasgean politeness and civility, I could not but exclaim, "Was Idomeneus more friendly to the sage Mentor? Did he shew more kindness to the son of Ulysses, his old companion in war? Was Salentum happy under its prince, when the infant state of things cast a rusticity on the best intentions? How happy must Melasge be, ripened by the  
soften-



softening arts of succeeding ages ?  
 How must truth and justice, love  
 and harmony, and every milder  
 virtue, reign where humanity and  
 gentleness are led by the hand of  
 Wisdom ? How do those towering  
 battlements, those lofty spires, which  
 seem to support the floating clouds,  
 denote the manly genius of the peo-  
 ple, those friends of the human race ?”

I was lost in admiration and re-  
 spect. The ties of consanguinity, so-  
 ciety, laws, government, customs,  
 and manners, influence a reciprocal  
 return of civilities and good offices ;  
 but to receive them from strangers,  
 who have no other bond of union than  
 one common nature ; to feel respect,

attention and honour from persons so widely inconnected, unknown to you, argues a sublime cause, denotes most disinterested and humane principles, an extensive genius that scorns to be hampered within the narrow circle of a state or kingdom; but, large as the terrestrial globe, calls man his brother, and thinks his aids should extend to all, as the circulating blood dispenses its nutritious qualities to the minutest part of the body, knowing no distinction of distance or situation. There are certainly few delights equal to those which arise from acting with honour and justice; and seeing that Nature, which boasts a superiority to other parts of the creation,

tion, soars in benevolence and kindness above brutality as much as reason does above instinct and habit. Strongly impressed with the most favourable sentiments of Melasgean humanity and politeness, we saw the boat along-side of us : they came on board, and, without losing time in bowing, scraping, or elaborate expressions of regard, the frivolous parts of kindness, they rushed upon our chests and lockers to see whether we were properly accommodated, wanted any assistance, and turned out the contents of our boxes and trunks with haste and eagerness. The sweat flowed in torrents down their cheeks. How were they mortified to find our provisions, dress, and equipage, so

judiciously arranged and selected; that they had no opportunity of exercising the liberality and generosity of their disposition! It gave me pain to observe their sensations, and trace the workings of their hearts: excess of pleasure is oft as irksome as grief and sorrow. I could not avoid exclaiming, 'Happy country! what abundant stores of felicity must they have who make others want their own, and draw their bliss from raising the wretched to taste the streams of comfort!'

C H A P. XXVII.

**N**O sooner were we landed, than crowds surrounded us on every side, some laughed, others huzzaed; in short, every one was full of admiration, jocundity, mirth, joy, at our arrival; nor did they desist from their polite expression of satisfaction, until we arrived at our lodgings, and withdrew from their sight. We had scarcely sat down to shake off the fatigue in which the national politeness had involved us, and had not

recovered sufficient breath and spirits to express the satisfaction these civilities gave us, when we were informed of the approach of company: so early a compliment surprized me. Unprepared to receive people of their elegant appearance, I would have declined the favour; but they were already in my apartment: to make gentlemen wait was an unpardonable rudeness; to appear in a travelling dress was mortifying to myself; yet, as it was more decent to take liberties with myself than others, I went to receive them, and express the high sense I had of the particular honour they did me. This design was happily rendered unnecessary (happily I say, for I never felt myself

myself less disposed to compliment than at that instant). One of the gentlemen informing me he was the maitre d' hotel; that the others were most ingenious gentlemen in their several callings, and perfectly conversant with the ton; "Give me leave, Sir (continued the spokesman, displaying a brilliant on the little finger on his right hand), to congratulate you on your arrival in a country the most distinguished in the world, both for natural beauties [here he advanced his right leg, and, putting his left hand to his side, displayed the shape of his arm, in a semi-circular figure] and acquired ornaments [here he adjusted his cravat, pulled down his ruffles, and, drawing his left foot



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to the first position, took out his snuff box, and presented it with consummate grace]. We have, Sir, in this island, the finest women upon earth. I have sometimes the honour of making one at their private parties [here he viewed himself with much complacency]; and, Sir, we keep the most plentiful tables of any nation in the world. I shall be particularly happy in receiving your honour's commands, to give you a specimen of my skill." Being indulged in his request, the other gentlemen, who had not settled the point of precedence, at once offered their services, aiming at pre-eminence in vociferation and clamour: I have, dress, cloaths, teeth, hair, unguents, washes,

washes, perfumes, alternately gained the ascendancy : long and warm was the contest ; the fist clinched, the teeth gnashed, and every feature, distorted with anger, portended battle : at length, exhausted, they ceased ; the complacent smile succeeded to the feat of fury, and gentle affability followed impetuous clamour. Fain would I have indulged myself a few hours in retirement, to refresh my weary limbs, and, at this juncture, declined their favours ; when reflection hinted, these ingenious personages must not be trifled with : it is dangerous to offend the ambassadors, the agents, conductors, sage counsellors of the closet, builders of character and advancement. Being  
un-

unwilling to have a wrong impression given of me to their associates of the first rank, I submitted to be lathered, scrubbed, washed, powdered, perfumed, dressed, &c. &c. &c. Having gone through these operations without being entirely flayed and suffocated, I had the satisfaction to find my compliance had the desired effect: each shewed the utmost inclination to oblige: one would have introduced me to a fair-one to perfect me in the language, another would have me see the wild beasts, or the festive scenes of a public evening's entertainment; another thought Beth—m, or the New Exchange, would be more entertaining; and a fourth, who prided himself in  
being

being a connoisseur, and having a taste for Virtù, entreated me to do the artists the honour of a visit at their room: this was more consonant with my disposition, and the next morning I resorted to the seat of ingenuity, where an infinity of statues, pictures, bustos, etchings, designs, models, and drawings, ancient and modern, all originals, arrested my wonder. In Rome, they say, there were more statues than there were living persons: here they seemed determined to rival that mistress of the world, and excel antiquity in the fine arts: most of the pieces were to be sold; some were exposed to instruct the young artist, and do honour to the modern school. Amidst a variety  
of

of conspicuous merit, that I cannot, from memory, do the justice to particularize, a noble family starving to death in a foetid cell, froze my blood: I sickened, I felt sharp, gnawing hunger; abhorred the tyrant's rage: near it was placed the portrait of a royal princess, adorned with every charm that grace, dignity, and beauty can give. Disgust left my bosom; delight and admiration succeeded. Astonished at the sudden transition, I exclaimed,

“ Who thus with horror makes my bosom swell,  
And paints the charms, which e'er with beauty dwell ?

Who

Who thus my soul, can pain or pleasure  
give,  
And bid the canvass from his pencil live?  
I cannot err! for R——ds stands alone  
Applauding genius, not knowing she's his  
own."

## C H A P. XXVIII.

A Gentleman observing my devotion to the arts, obligingly pointed out several curious pieces which were to be sold, and recommended some as invaluable; which, perfectly satisfied with his judgement, I purchased two statues, the originals of those copies that stand before the Pope's palacc at Montecavallo, by Praxitiles and Scopas: a brazen figure of Alexander at a banquet, by Lyfippus, who only was indulged with



with the honour of casting that immortal hero : the death of Adraftus, by an unknown hand : Telemachus in the court of Sesostris : Orpheus on the dolphin, playing upon his harp, by Apelles, from which the learned world have discovered that the ancient dolphin is the modern Porpus : an Egyptian sphinx, by Zeuxis : an exact representation of the statue of Memnon hailing the rising sun, made of the stone on which Apollo rested his lyre : a curious representation of Penelope's web : a flight of poetic ideas, and neglected genius smiling at Power, its companion : a full-length piece of a great doctor viewing his own productions through a curious antique

lens, that has the singular quality of creating and ascertaining skill and ability : this little piece, whether the product of art, or work of Nature, is an invaluable treasure, and certainly not to be matched in creation.

In all probability, I should have purchased other curiosities, had not my attention been attracted by the irresistible wit of the ladies who were there assembled to kill the morning : at first, their sallies were confined to the inanimate pieces before them, particularly a St. Anthony of Alexandria, the bashful patron of modesty and chastity in the politer regions of sincerity, truth, and honour. But, at length, diverted from

I

that

that innocent channel upon each other, their facetiousness became more enlivened, and was conducted with all the decency and moderation the Sylvan tribes, in foreign climes, observe on trees of delicious fruit. Here would I invoke the divine Thalia, to represent, in striking lines, the varied charms that were there displayed, the nice sensations of decorum, the modesty, delicacy, gentleness, and ease, that sat on every face; could I suppose she again would deign to revisit this tweedling isle: as that cannot be expected, I will take the liberty of recommending the scene to imagination, lest, attracting too much of the ladies' attention, I should give offence to

gentlemen, and draw as much repentment upon myself as the bristly soul of Scotus did from the polemic divines. As it is possible thy situation or disposition might not have permitted thee to form any acquaintance with this species of mankind, permit me to inform thee, they are a set of gentlemen to be found in every Kingdom, and people so deeply plunged in the profundity of disquisition, that, like St. Bernard, they are apt to drink oil instead of wine, without knowing it; and, in their pursuits after sublime truths, totally disregard their corrupt carcasses; and should perchance the rubbish of the world, through unavoidable necessity, fall in their way, they

they accept it with ill-will, and use it as those who having wives are yet as though they had none.

The blunted state of the senses, even in divines, is certainly no argument of its amiableness, or rationality. To be insensible of the happiness of riches, the beauties of the person, or charms of rank, exposes an ignorance of the chief excellencies of nature and society, and deserves our pity and compassion. Do not riches collect every thing that is curious in art or science, give delight, and promote the welfare of nations? Is not beauty entitled to the admiration that every thing which approaches towards perfection receives

from the mind and affections ? And does not every part of the visible world pay a deference to rank, and look upon the scale of superiority with respect ? Is it a matter of wonder, then, that each fair-one values her charms, and holds those who neglect them in contempt and detestation ? Is it surprizing that the generous spirit of resentment fires at an attempt to depreciate or rival them, and strides forth, like Joan of Arc, to repel the bold invader ? No part of Nature can presume to meet them on the same ground, excepting the mineral ; there the most valuable product has a relative value with personal beauty, and is not only equal by descent, but superior in

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power.

power. There is nothing extraordinary in the same species entertaining a regard for each other: the same nature and similitude unite affection, and seduces prepossession; minerals have the same faculty, and, moreover, command the notice and regard of things most dissimilar in qualities, properties, and essence. A lady, *Che non mai era senza mal d'occhi, con un color verde è giallo*, who is continually troubled with sore eyes, and has a green and yellow complexion, may be transformed by them into the completest beauty: they can clothe the blackest villain with the robe of innocence and virtue, induce the most noble prince to squeak a passion he might



have felt some fifty years before, and boldly take the youthful Crepida to his illustrious bed.

Here you, gentlemen, who do not find leisure to apply subjects to their principles in philosophy, swelling your cheeks with the risible ideas of events, which, in the nature of things, can never happen, and archly look within the curtain to see how foolish are the looks of expectation, dreading disappointment, not once entertaining a notion that Nature is the conductress of the procedure; or, remarking that the mineral and coronet attract each other at a given distance, and repel, when within a few lines of contact, so that they must

must remain at rest without a possibility of cohesion, will permit me to adjust the lineaments of your faces to the true solid philosophic standard, and exonerate the scenes from the burden of novelty.

However we moderns may value ourselves upon our philosophic discoveries, and vainly think that we alone found out the power of attraction and repulsion in this mundane system, be assured, these laws of Nature were known in the infant state of things. Endymion, who first described the course of the moon, made that discovery through a previous acquaintance with the laws of attraction and repulsion.

P 4      Thales,

Thales, on the same principles, foretold the famous eclipse of the sun upwards of three and twenty hundred years since; and Jupiter, transforming himself into gold, in his addresses to Danaë, discovered, to succeeding generations, the attractive affinity between the mineral world, and the human species: from these observations, and a thousand others which perpetually occurred in the Grecian states, laws were established to regulate and adjust those powers to circumstances; to supply defects and rectify errors. If, at any time, a young lady, by viewing an old person through an undue medium, should be attracted by him, and, from her youth and inexperience of  
the

the effects of age, had mistaken external splendor for the beams of native warmth, Lycurgus made a law that a virtuous young man should be selected by the old husband, to supply those omissions which the ravages of time had occasioned; a law so excellently adapted to nature, that it has subsisted here, where vice has not yet contaminated morals, even to this day; with this variation only, that formerly the husband selected the object, whereas now (as refinements are in a progressive state, and expand in every age) they do not give their husbands the trouble of procuring a substitute, and (restrained by modesty) carefully conceal their connections; so that the wisdom of

Ly-

Lycurgus is cultivated with the utmost assiduity, without the husband's intervention, or the least application to magic and incantations.

C H A P XXIX.

**T**Ravelling a considerable time without intermission, though we drive upon the nail, must inevitably loosen the linch-pin, if it does not snap the axle-tree ; therefore we should occasionally rest, to preserve our vehicle in proper order, that it may go glibly on, without screaming : besides, cattle require provender, and custom obliges us to give the polite gentleman at the hotel an opportunity of collecting our teeth money :

money : for these, and various other reasons, which may or may not occur to you, for the whole depends on the titillation of your senses, I determined to procrastinate our journey, or at least halt awhile ; when in the instant, my companion, with all the marks of surprize and wonder, expressed his astonishment at the manners and opinions of the Melasgeans, and could not be satisfied that the naturalness of Lycurgus's law exempted it from censure.

Thus all the pains I had taken to prove that the Melasgean sentiments and manners originated in wisdom ; that their elegance and refinements were founded on Nature, approved  
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of by the ancients and test of ages vanished like pleasing hopes built on another's generosity and honour. The respect I had for my friend's excellent disposition would not permit me to give him up immediately to his errors ; I, therefore, expressed my surprize that a gentleman of his discernment should find fault with Nature, when, look where you will, you see the hand of Beauty and perfection in her ; that he should be displeased with customs, manners, and sentiments, which sprung from so excellent a principle ; that he should object to reasonings founded on, and united with it. ' You know, very well, Sir, that habits are apt to pervert our reason, bewilder our judgment,

ment, seduce our will, and bias our opinions. Is it not probable that you are under this influence, and ought you not to be well satisfied of this particular, before you deviate from so wise and long-established a principle? The innovations that have taken place in the world are no arguments that Nature is defective; nor can we aver that the alterations in language, dress, sentiments, and manners, are intrinsically the best: they are supported by the spirit of change, are best in their day, and, giving way, are succeeded by better, which evidently shews they have no essential worth in themselves: if defective in their very essence, why should we foolishly pay them the compliment  
of

of regard, at the expence of that principle which has been invariably the same? Would not the friar who preached before the king, though he exhausted all the treasures of rhetoric in speaking of the Greek language, and shewing its derivation from the Hebrew, be derided at this time? Would not a gentleman make a ridiculous figure, if he dressed in a falling band, a short green doublet, the arm-parts towards the shoulders wide and flared, zigzag turned up ruffles, very long breeches, tied far below the knee, with long, yellow ribbons, red stockings, large shoes, and a short red cloak, lined with blue? Should we not wonder to hear that a lady had discovered  
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the spirit of Lucretia, or a gentleman the nice honour of Regulus ? If these peculiarities are contemptible at this time, and every thing must, sooner or later, that digresses from right Reason, does it not become us to revert to those sentiments and manners which right reason have supported ? When Geradas was asked by a stranger, What punishment would be inflicted on an adulterer in Sparta, replied, That the offender would be obliged to pay the plaintiff a bull, with a neck so long that he could drink of the river that flowed at the foot of Taygetus, over the top of the mountain ; intimating thereby that there was no possibility of that crime's appearing amongst them.

them. Geradas, the wife Geradas, had no idea that there was criminality in the law of Lycurgus; that acting agreeable to Nature, was inconsistent with wisdom and right reason. Indeed, you must either have been greatly secluded from society, not to possess sentiments that are entertained in all the polite circles of our world: *Civitas in qua nemo hospes, nisi barbarus*, a city where they only are strangers, who are unacquainted with the ton, or have obstinately resisted the laws of Nature, and force of example; or you would have been, as the Italians say, *Di quelli omaccioni, liberi, sinceri e d'animo veremente Romano*; *One of those great, free, and honest men,*

VOL. II. Q *whose*

*whose souls are truly Roman*; and be assured, my good friend, you will make a poor figure amongst mankind, if your conceptions are so dull as not to enter into the propriety and excellence of those opinions and manners. The man who presumes to think for himself, and run counter to the prevailing disposition of mankind, is but an hair's breadth from the straight jacket, or the fate of poor Otway.'

C H A P. XXX.

**P**Robably you think that, however polite and universal this procedure is, it places mankind on a level with the brute creation, and insist that our reason should raise us to more noble sentiments; that we should pay some respect to the dignity of man, and act consistently with that wisdom which distinguishes him from the animal world. Wisdom! Why of all words formed by the alphabet, there is not one that bears more va-

Q 2                    rious



rious interpretations, appears in more different shapes, and is in general so dangerous. Did not the Athenian state totter on the brink of ruin, from the wisdom of Demosthenes? Did not Themistocles's master tell him, when he was a boy, he would one day be a most destructive plague and ruin to his country? Did not the Romans, when the perverseness of Coriolanus compelled them to banish him, dismiss him with greater joy and triumph than they ever shewed for a victory? Did not Marcus Cato marry an apparitor's daughter, who worked for wages, and suffer her to prevail on him to stir up the third Carthaginian war, and spill a deluge of blood? Did not Brutus,

Cas-

Cassius, the Gracci, and Tully, involve the Roman state in civil discord and desolation? Did not the wisest prince of his age, as he acknowledges himself, spend an inglorious reign, duped and imposed upon by his neighbours? Did not a long-headed fellow lacerate the bowels of these dominions, with frantic fury, for many years, with so little regard to his progeny, that his son was obliged to charity for subsistence \*? And see wise men where you will, they are so inanimate and stupid, that they cast a gloom upon vivacity, and stir up a general yawn.

\* Does not Ros—u now live in a garret, wedded to the shining arms of his virtuous cook.

Q 3

If

If they unhinge their tongues to talk, they stop in the midst of a narrative, or involve the company in the arms of Somnus: if they are called upon to execute the common occurrences of life, to purchase or sell, rectify mistakes, or strike a ballance, they are as little in their element as the wise son of a late nobleman was in clean linen and good company; so that they are useless to their friends, a disgrace to their acquaintance, and dangerous to the state. Thus the Melasgeans, proving their principle by facts, beyond the denial of a single term, deducethat\*\*\*\*\*. Surprized to find such profound attention from my companion, I turned my eyes upon him, and found myself classed with

Wisdom.

Wisdom. Unwilling to dispel the balmy mist of sleep, I was silent, intending no more to incur that disgrace, or renew this subject, until these sheets should have been serviceable in lighting the musty soaker's pipe, or supplying the lisping Abigail with paper to curl her lady's hair.

No sooner had I formed the resolution to discontinue the Melasgean deduction, and for the future reform my manners (a resolution built on contingencies, and as susceptible of versatility as the most polite macaroni), than my companion, staring at the irascibility of my expression, assured me he had only closed his eyes, that no external ob-

ject might divert his attention from my discourse, and protested he had not the least idea of my having wisdom! Comforted by these assurances, and no longer in danger of so vile an imputation, I felt myself in an instant as happy as the good woman of Gainsborough was, when she was drawn to the shore by her hog. Our joy, it is true, had a strong similitude; yet there arose a specific difference in the string of cohesion; that, by which her body was fastened to the hog's leg, was so faithful, that it left her neither in security, or danger, in grief, or happiness; whereas my string was snapped, and irreducible to its pristine state, as Dido's chastity was, which fell a sacrifice to a lover,

a lover, who was dead three hundred years before she was born; an event that shews, to the female race, the possibility of universal contamination; that the nuns of Coldingham were no less absurd than barbarous, to incur voluntary deformity, in order to preserve what they possibly were never possessed of. Points of this abstruse and hidden nature are not here to be determined; for, after all my labours, and the polite credit many will pay my elegant author, there will be some, who, from wishing, will insist on the impossibility of such depredation, and as tenaciously maintain the possession of this Cynthian charm, as the astronomer does the satellite of Venus :  
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therefore, to avoid the appearance of partiality, or endeavouring to prejudice my reader in a point of such delicacy and importance, justice bids me defer a fuller illustration of this subject until the decree of Minos and Rhadamanthus, and the conversation which passed between Æneas and Dido in Elysium, shall be communicated to the public by authority.



C H A P XXXI.

**T**HESE spacious fields of speculation sometimes bewilder the incautious traveller, and lead him into the unfrequented passages that separate the brier from the thorn, the stately oak from the deadly nightshade and prickly thistle. As I have no inclination to wound the legs, or tire the patience of my reader, we will, if it is agreeable, step into the pleasing walks of reality, calmly amuse our reflections, and pick a morsel

morfel of instruction from Melasgean beneficence, that charming temper which displays the best disposition of nature: not that I would intrude upon silent modesty, that virtue so much in use and admiration, but, by general applause, to countenance a goddess who may soon be on the tip-toe to spring into other regions, as lady Astræa has, and, if possible to retain her in defence of politeness and high breeding; if possible, I say; for, since hospitality is not permitted in good company, it is most likely she will take her relation in her hand, and reside in purer regions in Tartary, the Hebrides, or some associated people inconsiderate of the insensibility of politeness.

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I shall not presume to enter upon geometrical commensuration of beneficence, or specify the degree each individual possesses, as such a consideration would necessarily compel me to prove the reality of a mathematical point ; but, that its proportions are various in different people, cannot be doubted : it is impossible it should be otherwise ; for those whose animation is only liable to be partially affected, and have no perception beyond their own periphery, will examine objects with nice attention, observe the cut of their beards, and, if they find it adjusted after their own fashion, generously drop a mite into their flannel caps, or give to them an onion, or leek,

to regale themselves with. Others, who have a more perfect command of their natural powers, extend their donations to humble nature, care, and tenderness; and, lest the paupers minds should dwell too much on their misfortunes, and reflection heighten their sensations, they amuse them as they sit or lie with some species of work (as ladies knot in their coaches, lest too much thinking should injure the vivacity of their eyes, and reduce the charming tints of their complexion), that whilst they beguile their pains, they may alleviate the expence of their maintenance, and support the humble mansion appropriated to their use.

But

But in Melasge this virtue will not be confined within these narrow bounds : she will not pay attention to rude health, that florid muscular strength which, by continual labour, can clothe the numerous infant race with the rag of decency : Nature there puts in her claim ; bestows rewards that should not be infringed ; but, when the poor become decrepid and infirm, she steps forth with eager zeal and warmth to their support ; no longer permits them to sleep on wretched pallets within the mud-wall cottage, exposed to the nocturnal blast, the inclemency of frost and snow, want and poverty, but lodges them in palaces, as the first objects of honour and distinction,

tion; gives them servants whose elegant habits, rich equipages, and plentiful revenues, would not disgrace nobility; feeds them with meats adapted to their several complaints, and leaves them perfectly at their ease, to view from their apartments the extensive plains covered with the beauties of nature and art; to walk the verdant lawns within their own domain, or supinely rest beneath the shady groves and vistas of spreading elms: a situation this so happily adjusted to the desires of man, that it is a real misfortune to many not to become decrepid, and shews the desire of health to be merely the vain wish of madmen and fools.

Be-

Besides this prudent and amiable attention to the persons of the inferior class of people in illness, they are singularly attentive to the instruction of the infant mind in literature. The care of their morals is always committed to the parent's curious eye, to that affection and wisdom which nature, animated by those sparkling atoms, that Mr. Cibber celebrates, produces. By these means they are guarded against those base connections which form the thief and murderer, protected from profaneness and acquaintance with those horrid imprecations which disgrace other countries, and serve the community with that fidelity, humility and honour, which



constitute no less domestic felicity, than it does public security and obedience.

Nay, so universal is the ardor to advance education, and cultivate sound learning, that every individual below nobility is ready to promote the noble cause, to instruct youth, and train up young gentlemen to be useful and ornamental members of society. No sooner does the farmer find the glebe too barren for his plow; no sooner does the lawyer perceive the spirit of litigation cease; no sooner does the apothecary observe that moderation and salubrious air maintain his neighbours in health; no sooner does the

the tobacconist discover that men nauciate his goods; and the footman is rejected service, than, with all the generous spirit of social regard, they launch out in the public cause and undertake to educate the youthful genius in polite literature, the mathematics, the dead and living languages, and every branch of science. It is impossible then that Melasge can be other than a land of eminent virtue, elegance, and knowledge; when the most accomplished individuals are anxious to extend their refinements to future generations. How must they strengthen the civil arm, advance the nicer sentiments of honour, that amor patriæ which was long the glory and of

classic ground, and if universally attended to, would again renew those distinguished days, when heroes washed the vices of individuals with the blood of millions, and make the world as refined, humane, and virtuous, as it was in the enlightened ages of tilts and crusados!

These modes would of themselves be admirably efficacious. But the Melasgeans have exalted sentiments, and permit nothing to remain in a state of mediocrity to give proper vivacity and freedom of thinking to the genius thus elegantly grounded: they look upon it as indispensably necessary to refresh it by the

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soften-

softening gales of Continental air. There can be no doubt that there is much acquaintance with nature in encouraging this plan of action; for we contract a certain rusticity at home, that is neither pleasing nor convenient, a stubborn attachment to sentiment; and a steady perseverance in the trammels of order, which totally destroys that easy negligence which gives grace to manners and attraction to personal accomplishment; for what are essential excellencies worth if they are not perceptible, and rendered conspicuous by the finer springs of action? Could agility, that favourite gift of Nature, be so admirably displayed without the assistance of a Feuillade

or Gallini? Would not the dignity of the body rest obscured, did not these friends to the human race draw it forth in all the grace of attitude and beauty of motion? Could a gentleman adapt himself to female delicacy, or properly express the tenderness of his passion, if he did not practise the softer tones, gentlest manners, and newest ton of smiles? these acquisitions are the strongest demonstrations of modern refinement, the glory of the times, such as antiquity with all her boasted powers cannot pretend to.

For then the beauteous queen of Crete  
Would take a town-bull for her sweet;

And

And from her greatness stoop so low,  
To be a rival of a cow :  
Others did prostitute their great hearts  
To be baboons and monkeys sweethearts.

HUD.

How monstrous would an attachment to monkeys be now thought ? Foreign intercourse happily eradicated every idea of it, whatever propensity there might have formerly towards it ; and in their stead introduced the prettiest dresses, and most inoffensive young fellows, whose amusing levities and comic tricks beguile the morning hour ; who comb the hair, read soft sonnets, say a thousand tender things, and tell the news that reigns amidst the gayest

circles. How gentle and bewitching are their manners? The sweetest gales that zephyrs waft from the enamelled plains are not so soft and sweet as they are. Bred in the lap of beauty and delicacy, they reject the rougher walks of manhood, and leave far behind them the powers of vulgar education.

The society of Les Belles Lettres often have in vain attempted to breed a fine gentleman;—The ton of the levee, and dressing room, exceeded the most elevated strains of their imagination; though it is impossible any body of men should conduct a society more agreeably to the acumen of intelligence than they do: all  
their



their compositions are supreme. Nor does Voltaire, or D'Alembert ever make any strictures on foreign literature but what are totally free from the smallest idea of envy, ignorance, or malice. There the various branches of science are taught in perfection, and the arts traced from their origin and unfolded in all imaginable elegance; so that a student may rely on their productions as genuine guides to knowledge, shielded by truth and honour. In the hours of relaxation, what abundant matter offers itself to strike the mind with wonder and admiration! Here only are magnificent buildings, gardens of taste and beauty! The treasures of wealth and genius are assembled in  
the

the city of the world. The royal palaces in fullen grandeur claim veneration, never enough to be expressed. The T——s as a terrestrial paradise, is the seat of universal pleasure and delight, where the tender infant plays, and florid groups obey the calls of nature with unblushing innocence. Happy freedom! Sweet resort of smiles, how supremely easy and engaging does it make its votaries, especially if they are initiated into those select societies where the fire of imagination is let loose, and genius appears in her native dress; where the sallies of wit are brilliant; the elastic starts of a pauvre diable of a malefactor upon the wheel, are painted in all the bright colours of

facetiousness; where the feelings of a too tender parent, and the virtues of a chaste wife, are exposed in all the genuine traits of ridiculousness and folly; where a Didero will unfetter the mind from the manacles of education, and teach them to laugh at the great event of the Augustine age and its consequences as trifling tales, calculated to amuse the ignorant, and bind the faculties of great minds.

Oh happy Melasge! thus to have thy natural endowments illustrated by foreign aids, and be outstripped in no excellent quality unless thy ladies yield the palm of runing to the Duchesse de Ch——s!

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